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July 1961 Vol. 101 No. 7

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The American Bee Journal Hamilton, Illinois

Vol. 101, No. 7 July, 1961

Editor—G. H. Cale
Associate Editors—M. G. Dadant, Roy A. Grout

Published monthly at Hamilton, Illinois Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office, Hamilton, Ill. In the United States, and Canada, $2.50 a year; two years, $4.50; three years, $6.00. Foreign 50c a year extra. Subscription stopped at expiration date printed on wrapper. Available on microfilm at moderate prices by writing to University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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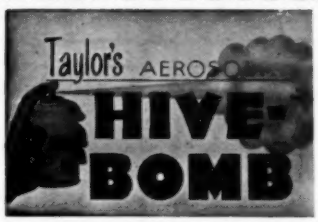

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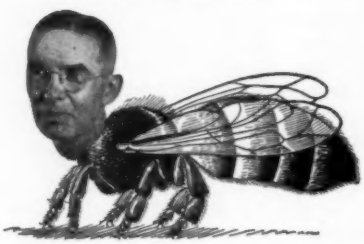

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The Commercial Operator

Editor - S. JOAQUIN WATKINS

This is Joaquin's second long commercial department. The first was in February. Even if he does have to conduct the operation of 2400 colonies in California, a pollination project in Oregon and a comb honey outfit in Colorado, he somehow finds time to dig out some of the finest commercial stories we have ever published.

Seasonal Operation With Package Bees

by MERRILL FRISQUE

After some 30 years in beekeeping, most of it using packages every spring, one arrives at some deep convictions concerning the method and manner of operation. We believe most other vocations do not have the variables to be found in beekeeping, and a good share of these the beekeeper is powerless to control.

This only serves to point up the fact that the factors over which he does have control must be properly taken care of, or the scales are not tipped in his favor.

It should be obvious to everyone that a crop of honey cannot be obtained in a territory where none exists even with big powerful colonies. But from our observations, every beekeeper who loses out in a situation like this, there are some who lose out because they were not on the job with their bees.

It is of primary importance to get good packages but unfortunately there is no way to find this out except by trial and error.

When one is operating a number of yards, it is a big advantage to set up a uniform system of handling all colonies with a minimum of labor. This is why we have settled on using two brood chambers—a standard and a jumbo. It has given us the desired results without the use of three brood chambers which we would use if running them with all standard equipment. (The Modified Dadant hive works very well with the 6¼ frames used for the starting hive in April.)

The package—a two and one-half pounder—is installed in early April. To come up with the best hive for the honeyflow it is important that this standard body have *good combs* and enough honey and pollen to enable the package to go ahead regardless of the weather. Installing a package on combs that are 50 per cent drone, full of dead brood or bees, or solid slabs of honey in the middle of the brood nest, is certainly not conducive to getting the most out of the package.

This brood chamber contains eight dark combs about half filled with honey and pollen flanked by two solid combs of honey on the outside. Extra queens are kept in nucs by splitting a two queen package. Early queen losses are replaced and requeened by use of the entire nuc.

In early May we check each hive by tipping up from the bottom board and the real strength of each one can be spotted instantly. The jumbo is then added on the bottom of those that are ready. By raising the standard the heat needed for brood rearing is easier to maintain, and at this time of the year we are still subject to some very cold nights. As the colony strength increases, the queen expands downward into the jumbo and this jumbo too has honey and pollen. This has been an extra amount of pollen obtained from caging the queens in early August as a prelude to killing them off in September. In effect then, we are saving this honey and pollen that would normally be used by the bees in the fall, for bees that will be working in the succeeding year's honeyflow. Quite often bees are never able to gather enough pollen due to bad weather and a good reserve will maintain a high degree of brood rearing during May and early June.

Most queens establish the desired and proper brood pattern in the jumbo, and just prior to the main honeyflow, approximately June twentieth, the queen is confined to the jumbo with an excluder, and a super is put on and the original standard body is raised on top of this. This serves as an excellent swarm control measure and also tends to suck the surplus bees up into the supers. Colonies, that are not up to par for early storing strength shortly after the flow begins, are united giving the equivalent of two queen colonies.

Lest we sound as if we don't have any problems, (show us a man who doesn't have them) we consider that Nosema would for us, head the list. We have had and continue to have at times trouble with this in spite of Fumidil. Incidentally, it is our understanding from talking to several men who should know—that the effectiveness of this control measure is very controversial.

We cage our queens in early August during the alfalfa flow with colonies being killed off in early September.

Concluding, good crops of honey can be had from packages as well as a good system of wintering. Both have their advantages and disadvantages. We feel one of the big advantages with packages is less de-

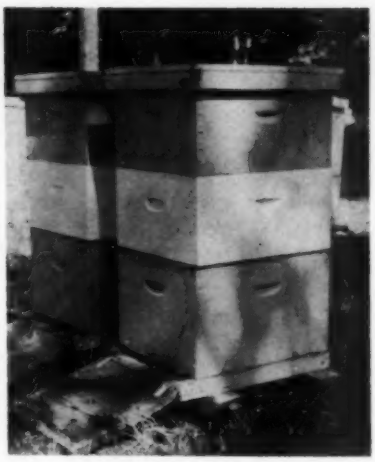
preciation of equipment. Most of our equipment and combs are in use less than five months out of the twelve, and under cover more than half the year. We have no starvation or moldy comb problems and equipment after twenty-five years of use is in first class condition with very little replacement costs. Wintering is extremely hard on equipment and increases depreciation and replacement costs considerably.

On the other hand there is room for improvement in the quality of queens and packages shipped from the South. Nosema and bad weather plague the shipper to the point of not being able to ship top quality packages. Good wintering can be had in either two or three brood chambers. It costs considerable to maintain colonies all year when you only need them for a short period of time.

Down through the years we have been adding mechanical improvements as we are able to develop them and they enable one to accomplish more by cutting down on the heavy bull work. A completely automatic electric valve now fills all our sixties and is something that all producers who fill 500 cans or more should not be without. In this connection we feel there is a big field ahead in the development of practical mechanical aids for beekeepers.

Green Bay
Wisconsin

1



2

3

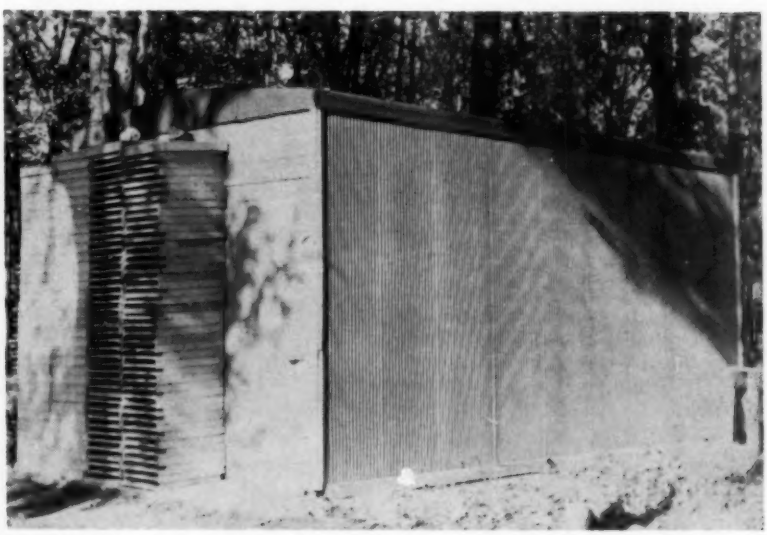
(1) Original standard body that package was installed in is on top. Jumbo body is added at bottom.

(2) Queen confined to Jumbo. Standard body of brood raised above a white super. Hive now ready for a honeyflow.

(3) Frisque yard in a honeyflow.

(4) Outyard storage building. Bottoms and covers stacked outside.

(5) Digging for queens in August. Quite often conditions demand the use of gloves in order to expedite the job.



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Production of Chunk or Bulk Comb Honey

by CARL KALTHOFF

It is a well established fact that in order to get a crop of honey, whether extracted, section, or chunk comb honey, a colony of bees must be in prime condition when the honeyflow commences.

To achieve this, bees are supplied with sufficient stores in the fall or fed in the spring. As to sufficient stores, this no doubt will vary with locality, whether bees are able to store from fall blossoms for their winter and early spring use, and also the number of spring plants available. If neither of these conditions exist, then no doubt, feeding is necessary.

Today, with the ever decreasing number of nectar plants, we find it necessary to feed our bees some in the spring. Before the days of the bulldozer and weed sprays, we rarely had to feed. We are still able to get sufficient stores from fall blossoms for winter and early spring use, but the spring nectar plants, wild mustard, dandelion, etc., have almost disappeared due to the weed sprays. Even the numerous black locust groves have been bulldozed out to make room for more farming land. As to the main honeyflow plants, sweet clover and blue vine, they too have disappeared. Instead of using legumes, farmers here are now resorting to the use of artificial fertilizers, and are using the same land over and over for corn or soy beans, and soy beans do not yield nectar here. As to blue vine, it has disappeared due to the weed sprays. Roadsides that used to have sweet clover are now sprayed and mowed, and the only thing left is the white clover in the few pastures remaining, and some basswood.

Time was, ten to thirty years ago, that we could place 50 hives to a yard, and a mile distance between each yard, and receive an average yearly surplus from each colony of one hundred pounds in section, chunk and extracted honey. If sweet clover did not yield, blue vine was sure. From 1934 to 1954, we had only one failure on blue vine. Our yards now number 25 colonies, and a distance of three miles between yards.

We used to keep our colonies in two stories the year round, but early in the fifties we found more and more colonies not finishing the chunk honey supers. In the days of sweet clover and blue vine, beekeeping was simple. All a person had to do was to top super, and the bees would put the honey there. We have had as many as eight supers of chunk honey finished on two story colonies, and all top supered.

In the production of honey we aim to try to get every colony in a yard to produce chunk honey, the production of extracted honey being secondary.

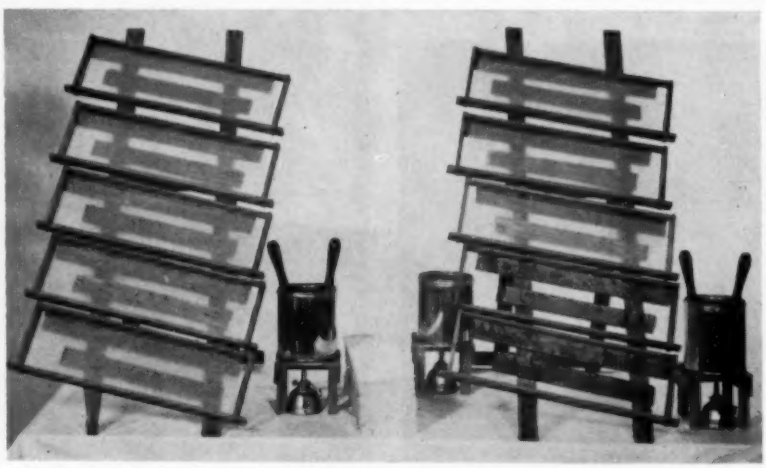
For a few years in the early fifties we operated our colonies in single 10 frame stories, and we did get the results wanted, finished chunk honey supers, but we also did get quite a bit of pollen in the supers. Four years ago we started to operate in a story and a half and have achieved the same results, with very little pollen in the supers.

Our colonies now are operated in a story and half the year round, and we find it ideal for the production of chunk honey.

Spring work consists of supplying stores if needed, mainly with combs of honey, both deep and shallow, saved from the previous fall flow. Something like 20 hive bodies full of combs of honey and 20 to 30 supers of shallow combs of honey will suffice to take care of our 300 colonies for spring feeding. Very little sugar syrup is fed. All queenless colonies are united with queen-right colonies. If weather is favorable, increase is made in early April to replace these colonies and other colonies lost. Queenlessness is a minor problem though, at the most 12 colonies, and they are easily replaced. Queens' wings are clipped in the early spring examinations. As spring progresses, and colonies need more room, especially clustering room for young bees, shallow extracting supers of nine combs each are supplied above the permanent story and a half, without the use of excluders. Some queens will venture into these supers, but not many. At each examination up to the 1st of May, each colony gets a dusting of a mixture of powdered sugar, sulfa and terramycin.

Most years, we can expect preparations for swarming around the middle of May, 10 days to 2 weeks before the main flow from the white clover and basswood.

Colonies are inspected weekly from the 10th of May on. There is no need inspecting each colony by removing



Easels and slanted frames in position for waxing in foundation.

combs in looking for queen cells. All that is necessary is to raise up the half story, and look at the edges of the bottom bars of the combs for queen cells. Where no preparation is made for swarming, the hive is closed, and possibly another shallow extracting super added. Where eggs or very young larvae are found in queen cells the hive is gone through, and all cells destroyed, and probably another extracting super added. Where advanced larvae or sealed queen cells are found, the colony is Demareed, and if we need replacement for colonies in the yard, and were not able to do it by spring division, then 10 days later, or a day or two sooner, as time works out, the original hive, story and a half, is moved to a place in the yard for increase.

A week or ten days before we anticipate the start of the main honeyflow, the chunk honey supers are placed on each colony, being placed on top of all, above the extracting supers. If weather remains favorable, there will be no gnawing of the foundation. Each chunk honey super is supplied with 8 frames filled with foundation and two light extracting combs, one placed on each side of the eight frames. By having these two extracting combs on each side, the 8 frames of foundation will be drawn and sealed simultaneously, doing away with unfinished combs.

When the honeyflow commences in earnest, each colony is reduced to its original story and a half, an excluder is put on, and then the chunk honey super. If there has been a flow on for a few days prior to this operation, we find the bees have started working in the chunk honey supers, and some hives may need a second chunk honey super. The extracting supers that have been removed are piled on top of hives that probably would not store in chunk honey supers. A person may do all he can, but there are always colonies in a yard that do not come up to par, and on these the extracting supers are piled plus on those hives that have been treated for swarming; or if more increase is needed, two supers with brood are put on a stand, and later on a hive body with combs is added, and one of these supers will become the half story, to make it a story and a half. Most of the brood in this increase should be sealed. Only the best of stock in each yard is used for this increase for they are to raise their own queens.

Colonies during the honeyflow are checked every few days as to storing requirements and any preparations for swarming. Any chunk honey storing colony found with advanced queen cells, has the chunk honey supers removed, and a body of frames of foundation is interchanged with the full combs of the colony, making it a two and half story hive. Of course all queen cells are destroyed. This should only be attempted if there is a good honeyflow on. If the honeyflow is not so heavy, all queen cells are destroyed, and the queen killed, and ten days later all cells again destroyed with the exception of one nice cell, from which the colony will have its new queen. Swarming by then will be over, as well as the honeyflow. The removed chunk honey supers are placed on colonies that are doing good work in the supers.

At the end of the honeyflow, the hives, that were treated for swarming by having their combs interchanged with frames of foundation, are reduced back to the original story and a half, and the new combs set on top over an excluder, and left there to be removed in the fall to be used as feed the next spring.

Some queens are raised by us each year, and some are purchased. For chunk honey production, it is necessary that we have queens that keep a compact brood nest and do not run all over the hive to deposit eggs.

We raise our queens by the Miller method, and look for five main traits in the breeder-compactness of brood, white cappings, good comb builders, and very little propolizing. These queens are raised in July, after the main honeyflow. Colonies to be requeened have their queens killed, and eight or nine days later all cells destroyed that have been built in these colonies, and a ripe cell given from the breeder stock.

If weather should be favorable in early April to make divisions, as related above, we can probably get some extra queens then, by setting two combs of emerging brood on a double screen above a strong colony, and giving these combs of brood a cell from a division. These two comb nuclei must be supplied with feed one way or another. There must be an entrance in the double screen.

Most of these queens will be used in early May in colonies where there are old queens and showing signs of supersedure.

In the above we have tried to explain how we, at the present time, produce chunk honey. Now, the greatest factor influencing a honeyflow is weather, and the system of management may change some, due to the weather, but basically it is followed as we have described it. We have tried various methods of swarm control, but after years of experience, find what we have related in the foregoing the most sure.

We have, in the past, produced the finest section comb honey over an eight frame hive, this hive being run as a single story eight frame hive the year round. Again, we have pro-

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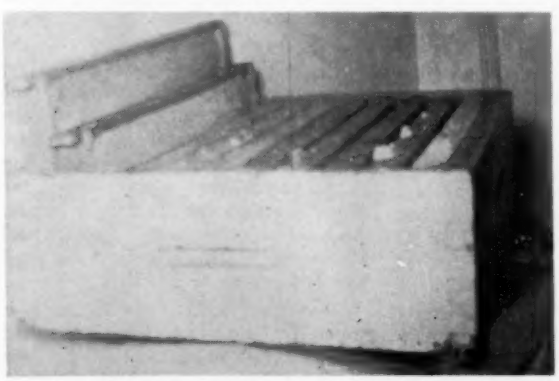
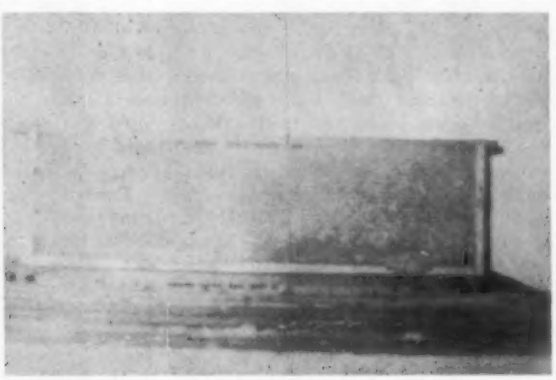


A super of chunk comb honey. The comb raised the highest is an empty extracting comb and the next one to it is a filled and sealed chunk honey comb.



Finished chunk honey comb taken from the super in the left picture. Not a very good photograph but the best we could do.

duced the most sections per colony over single story 10 frame hives, these also being run as single 10 frame story colonies the year round.

So it proves, if you have the nectar plants and the weather, bees will store a crop of honey whether in single story 8 or 10 frame colonies, or story and a half and double or three stories.

Lexington
Missouri

The Profit Angle in Commercial Beekeeping

by WILLIAM E. SUMNICK

A short time ago, while talking with a group of commercial beekeepers, I noticed that we were all complaining of the same problem. Basically the problem was this: While employing the latest methods and covering greater territory than ever before to obtain good yields we finished each year with insufficient profit. Some had the greatest total income they had ever taken in, but at the end of the year they admitted there was not enough left to encourage their own sons to become beekeepers.

For some time now, I have tried to investigate this discouraging part of our business. Many of the factors I have found are common to all farmers. A few are special to the beekeeper only.

The first factor to realize has been inflation and taxes. Everyone realizes this but I wonder if they are aware of how badly they have been hurt. If you had a 1000 hives in 1940 and made a net profit of $2.00 each you would have had $2000.00 to show for your efforts. After paying $25.00 for income taxes you had $1975.00 left to live on and save. If you saved $200.00 and decided to buy more new hives you could have added 40 more hives to your outfit at $5.00 each. These would have been new, double story, catalogue priced, made up from your own increase. $2.00 net income from each hive was not unusual either, in 1940. Most beekeepers averaged a 60 lb. tin of good honey per hive in New York State and still do.

The beekeeper who made $2000.00 in 1940 must make $4800.00 in 1961 to live the same way. This is because inflation has taken $2050.00 more to buy the same items as in 1940 and taxes average $750.00 on a $4800.00 income. Between taxes and inflation you need $2800.00 more to do the same thing! And what about a few hives for increase? Well, the same hives using your own increase, cost about $14.00 each now so you could make a 15 hive increase instead of 40 on your $200.00 savings. You have to handle a lot of money now in order to keep ahead of inflation and taxes and still you lose 25 hives in increase.

Now what about our honey price? We get more for it now than in 1940. In 1940 good white honey brought 7c a lb. here in New York State. 6½c was clear after allowing ½c per lb. for a new 60. One thousand sixties returned $3900.00 gross.

How about prices now? In 1960 the average price was 13c and allowing one cent per pound for a good can to hold it, you get 12c actual return. One thousand sixties return $7200.00. You have now upped your gross by $3300.00 in 20 years time, but this is not even double the amount. In order to exist under the same standard of living you have to make $2000.00 net rise up to $4800.00 net and the gross return from $3900.00 up to $9360.00 not $7200.00.

Now these figures are average and they cover a period of my life in which I produced honey with the exception of 4 war years in service. I feel that the bee business has suffered more than these figures show because of natural as well as economic conditions. In order to keep the average yield per hive up, beekeepers have been forced to raise their cost of production far out of this proportion.

Let me give you an example from my own operation. Twenty years ago I had a nice yard of bees along the Wallkill River. It contained 64 hives and averaged 60 lbs. per season. It still does, but the location now supports only 20 hives. I reduced the yard and made two more. There, I said to myself, I'll get just as much honey so what is the difference!

Time has shown me that there is a good deal of difference in costs. First, three rents to pay instead of one. Since I averaged 40 lbs. of honey for rent per location, this one yard now costs me 80 lbs. more of honey each year. This is roughly $10.00 more cost per 64 hives. Not much, but on a large outfit it is all of $100.00 extra cost per year that didn't even exist 20 years ago. And what about the extra trips into so many new locations? Trucks use gas and tires to get there, and they are expensive items. Consider also the extra time, not only driving but keeping a road into extra locations. Important too is that none of this time is being spent on the bees themselves. And more time is spent driving than before, not only because there are more yards to go to, but also because the new yards have been established farther away from home.

What has forced this yard to be split in three? Let's look back a bit and I find it is progress. The very machines and new methods which have improved the farmer's life have set mine back! Immediately after the war, the farmers near this yard began improving their farms. First came the bulldozers. They buried the stone walls and fields were made bigger. Along those walls grew blackberry, wild raspberry, choke cherry, poison ivy, sumac, etc. Not important flows but enough minor flows to keep 64 hives going to the major honeyflow. Then someone invented the chain saw. Down came locust for fence posts faster than ever before. And some basswood, maple, and others for building. Result, the yard was reduced to 40 hives.

Then the dairy farmer found a wonderful new machine, the field chopper. Now he could cut that clover before it bloomed and tuck it away in the silo. Then a late growth could be harvested as hay in bloom. Un-

fortunately this latter growth never yielded like the old first cutting, so the yard went to 20 hives.

Isn't this just about what has happened in one way or another to your bees? And it is an example of how our production costs have been raised by natural conditions. Others which come into my mind are spraying the brush off the roadsides and railroads, bees lost through spray poison, farmers stopping the planting of buckwheat and alsike clover to grow a more profitable crop.

We beekeepers would be getting a much better return per hive if it were not for these natural disadvantages that have come about in the past two decades. We have made great progress in stock, disease, wintering and easier and faster methods in our own use. There isn't any doubt in my mind, nor my friends, that the bee business has been placed in a financial squeeze during this time.

The Other Side Of The Coin

I do not wish to imply that you cannot make good money in beekeeping, as many of us still do. It is important however, to realize the costs and disadvantages that we have incurred during these years.

Now let us look into some of the things beekeepers have changed in their operations during the past two decades in order to stay prosperous. Careful packing for winter was expensive and took a lot of time. Our new type of packing is a simple sheet of building board grooved to give a top entrance. My whole outfit is ready for winter in two days now. It used to take 10 days in the fall and almost as long in the spring to pack and unpack 400 hives. The bees winter just as well now as the top entrance lets out moisture and dry clusters seem to stand an amazing amount of cold. Now also our yard fences are gone. This was one benefit the beekeeper in dairy country received from progress. When the horses went off the farm, the bee fences came down.

Management today has been cut to the bone. Nothing is done unless it affects the yields. Take queen clipping as an example. We use to clip every queen. I'll never in the world realize why. Maybe it was the fashion! My advice to anyone who wants his queens clipped is to buy them that way. It doesn't take the breeder long as he has the queen in his hands at caging time.

A great many beekeepers adopt methods because they hear or read about some other successful beekeeper or experiment using those methods. I can't go along with that. I believe to each his own. Experiment all you wish but only adopt methods which pay off for you. A good example of this is feeding pollen substitutes. This is a fairly recent discovery and many Eastern beekeepers started to do it when the experimental results came out. Imagine feeding pollen substitutes in an area where there is normally too much pollen and many seasons in which the queen is hampered for room because the brood nest is surrounded by it? Pollen substitutes are necessary only in an area of pollen shortage. Some beekeepers have told me that we have bad weather some years and the bees are delayed in building up. In my own management I feel happy when this happens as I know from my records that the honeyflow will also be delayed that year. Bees seem to go along with their evironment, and we should not upset it unless is proves profitable to do so.

Some of the other changes which have helped the beekeepers save time are better machinery and equipment, getting away from feeding with the food chamber system, less loss from disease and the breeding of specific stock for specific purposes.

Now with less time spent on each hive most beekeepers have tried to turn the extra time into more profit. Some have enlarged the number of hives operated, others have migrated to obtain additional honey and many have spent the extra time developing a market for their honey. Beekeeping is getting more difficult to get started in, with its demands of larger capital and expensive equipment and handicapped by inflation, taxes and tight honey prices.

Gardiner, New York

Sumnick home and honey house.

Picture of home yard taken from house. When you sit in the living room easy chair, this is the view in winter.

Beekeeping in Northeastern Montana

by HARRY RODENBERG

I have been asked many times where Wolf Point is located. It is the county seat of Roosevelt County located on the Missouri River 75 air miles west of the North Dakota border, 65 air miles south of the Saskatchewan border, and 35 air miles east of the Fort Peck Dam.

This area of Northeastern Montana is strictly an agriculture area. The benchland is composed of large dry-land strip farms of wheat, and the lands not suitable for farming are used for cattle and sheep grazing.

Generally speaking only along the river bottom area of the Missouri River is there forage for bees. Of the 2000 colonies of bees which we have along this stretch of the river only approximately ⅓ of them are located upon irrigated lands. The remainder depends upon sub-irrigation from the river and the whims of mother nature with her sparse rainfall.

My father and I first moved bees into this area in 1947. The drought and depression years of the '30's had forced earlier beekeepers to vacate this last frontier of Montana. We were told that it was a "country of extremes" as well as "next years' country." Both of these expressions I have found very true during the past 13 years. I have experienced a low temperature of -52°F in 1954, and a high of 108°F during the past summer; an accumulated rain fall of only 3 inches for an eleven months period (1955-56), but never a period of too much moisture. Nevertheless it is a challenge as I believe beekeeping to be in any area.

Our beekeeping operation is geared for a honeyflow which may last for only a 10 day period. For this reason our prime interest is to build up a colony as strong as possible, and naturally to do this, highly productive queens are very important as well as the elimination of bee diseases. Through the use of drugs as a preventive treatment we have eliminated any occurrence of either AFB or EFB. However, some years Nosema does appear.

Our bees for each season are made up from two sources—wintered-over colonies and package bees. Because of the rather frequent severe winters, wrapping is a necessity, as well as a second body completely filled with a good quality honey. A third body of honey is very good insurance. We also check our winter yards throughout each summer very closely, selecting only the best queens to be packed for winter. Protected winter locations are very important to assure a low winter loss. Buffalo berry thickets on the north and west make a very good wind protector . Usually our winter loss will run under 5%. On occasions it has reached as high as 10%, but even then we normally obtain a split from each colony wintered which makes the cost compare favorably with a delivered 2 lb. package of bees. In recent years we have practiced supplementary feeding early in the spring which has curbed the winter loss and increased the colony strength. The remainder of our colony count is made up from 2 lb. packages which we truck in from California about the middle of April. We use an enclosed van on our truck with adjustable air vents to control the temperature. These vans are quite common throughout Montana for those beekeepers who rely on packages. The packages are installed in brood nests containing honey and pollen which were sorted out during the winter months.

My theory in the use of both package bees and wintered-over colonies is the fact that I am not putting all of my eggs in one basket. Our winters are severe enough that I would hesitate to depend upon wintered colonies entirely. There is also a certain amount of risk involved with the transportation and installation of packages dependent on weather conditions and queen acceptance.

A yard of package bees installed along the Missouri River.

Aeronca Sedan. It doesn't perform as well as a Cub in cow pastures but it is faster, has greater range, and will carry a larger load.

Hive loader in operation. Yard has been killed and bees brushed out. Honey and brood nests are being loaded in truck.

Loader hoists piles comfortably to truck bed saving labor and time.

It is necessary for us to supply at least 40 pounds of honey for a package or split. The spring build-up is such that there is no one plant that gives the bees a really big boost such as dandelions do in so many other areas. We usually have a series of light spring flows from a variety of sources such as buffalo berries, willows, choke cherries, a spindly type dandelion, June berries, and during wetter springs American vetch. If any one plant is the most dependable for spring build-up, I would say that it is willow. There can likely be different type willows blooming from April 1st to May 30th.

Of course our main source of nectar is yellow sweet clover, alfalfa, and white sweet clover. The clover grows on the low lands and islands along the river, while the alfalfa is grown on the irrigated lands.

Our colony manipulations is based upon the principle of supplying the queen with an adequate brood nest of good brood combs, usually three standard supers, and supering well in advance of the need for room. If swarm cells occur we divide the supers of brood with a screen which allows an entrance to the rear, adding additional supers of brood combs to each part below and above the screen. This keeps the colony as a unit and upon the next round the colony has likely overcome the swarming tendency and the screen is removed.

Johny Rodenberg, an occasional helper and the oldest son of the author.

I am a strong advocate of labor saving devices. Until recent years I felt the industry was lagging in this respect. My father, with whom I was associated in business until his death in 1958, also believed that beekeeping need not be the physical exertion that he had known it for a period in excess of 35 years.

We both felt that the first improvement might be in loading the honey from the colony to the truck. In 1952 we adapted a gas-powered hand truck by which we hauled 5 supers of honey up a ramp onto the truck. Then in 1955 we purchased a hive loader which we are still using. You notice that the yard shown in the picture is placed in a semicircle with the entrances facing out. This allows us to place 40 to 50 colonies in one circle and leave an opening for the truck to enter. With the 18 foot boom of the loader we pick up stacks of honey or colonies of bees. The basket of the boom is equipped with forks which go under the honey drip pallet or bottom board as the case may be.

In our extracting process we use an automatic uncapping machine similiar to the Sioux Bee uncapper except that it has vibrating steam knives instead of rotating blades. It has proved quite satisfactory during the past 6 seasons it has been in use. Our cappings are fed by gravity to a Brand melter which has been converted to handle the large volume necessary with the automatic machines. The slumgum is removed frequently from the melter and allowed to drain during the day in a heat chest before it is placed into the wax presses. *(Please turn the page)*

At left, 50 x 40 ft. extracting building. Overhead door is entrance to a radiant heated warming room for supers. Barrels of honey are stacked on slab between the two buildings. 32 x 72 ft. warehouse at right is used for super storage.

A number of beekeepers that I know use a fork lift in their operation. I definitely feel that the use of a fork lift, to handle supers both in loading trucks during the spring and early summer when they are going out to the outyards, as well as stacking them away in the warehouse in the fall, would be a great labor saver. I believe our super storage warehouse would be well adapted for the use of a fork lift with its 14 foot sidewalls. I hope to palletize our extracting supers during the next few years so that a fork lift can be added to our operation. It could also be used to good advantage in handling and stacking drums of honey.

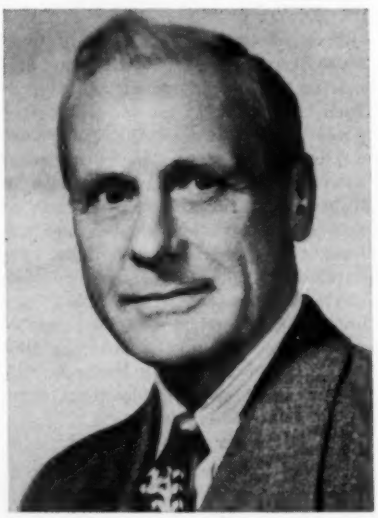
We see a lot of use nowadays for the private airplane in business and agriculture. Here again I feel that the light airplane can be utilized quite extensively by the commercial beekeeper. I have had an interest in a Piper cub during the past 3 years. This has been a work horse for locating the bloom, and checking yards after severe windstorms. In this area of Montana it is no problem to find a road or field suitable to land on within walking distance of any of our bee yards. In fact some of our colonies are located in an area which is very difficult to reach by road due to the rough terrain. Since these are wintered bees, I have worked out a system whereby I take large loads of equipment into the area in the spring, and then use the airplane to work them up to the time that honey is to be removed.

Beekeeping in northeastern Montana as in any other area is no easy task. Contrary to the belief of many who are not familiar with the occupation, the bees do not do all of the work. One must like it to be in it. I certainly enjoy the continued anticipation and challenge which beekeeping offers.

Wolf Point, Montana

Selecting Bee Yard Locations

by HARLEY K. LITTLE



Selecting bee yard locations is very difinitely an important factor in the successful operation of bees. Perhaps the most important, after getting them where the blossoms are, is the availability of a good clean water supply. It takes a lot of water to dissolve the granulated honey or the raw sugar, if one is using that, and a good available supply of fresh clean water is positively necessary, otherwise one must provide it in containers that won't rust. Barrels perhaps, are best. However, in this country it is seldom a problem for we have irrigation and spring runoff caught in conservation ponds which supply ample sources. The water should not be too far from the hives because it may be necessary for the bees' use during cool weather and long flights of a bee filled with cold water in cool weather may be disastrous to the bee, but, may be necessary for the proper functioning of the hive.

Sometimes, if he doesn't give it special attention, a beeman may find it difficult to reach his yards in spring because of muddy roads or insurmountable obstacles. I have one such yard where it has been necessary for me to carry raw sugar in sacks for a fourth mile to keep the colonies from starving when gumbo prevented getting into the yard for several days but it was such a good location that this disadvantage was more than compensated for in fast buildup and good honey crop. Getting there was, in most years, not a problem.

Of course bees will fly long distances to obtain nectar if necessary but it is just like having the coal bin close to the furnace to locate the bees as close to the source of supply as possible. The shorter the trip to the grocery store the more trips one can make.

Ideal locations in this country are almost an impossibility because there are very few windbreaks which are worth their weight. Yards, well sheltered from the wind certainly are desirable—but seldom available here. One could erect a windbreak for his yards and it would probably be well worth the effort if it is to be a long used yard. If one were to erect windbreaks double breaks would probably be best: one to catch and hold the drifting snow and the other to protect the bees. It would hardly be wise to have huge drifts of snow enveloping the hives which would likely be a result if the hives were too close to the break. If they were too far the break would not serve the purpose for which it was intended.

Good windbreaks are not only desirable for the protection of the bees in winter but are much more pleasant to work behind when the operator needs to work bees on a windy day. Small operations may be worked under ideal weather conditions by choosing the good days for work but large commercial operations often have to be done under conditions that are far from ideal.

Putting on a few supers for the 1960 crop. Half of the yard is on the other side of the trucks.

On the clean up in Kittle's honey house in 1960. The boy in the background is stacking supers.

Certainly, one must consider the type of terrain on which he locates a yard. I have seen yards which I felt sure the operator had not given enough consideration to the possibility of their being flooded if a terrific rain storm should develop in that area. It would be hard for me to sympathize with a beekeeper who put a yard in such a place. High ground, or a ridge or place where there is no possibility of flooding is an absolute must. Hives choked up by mud so the bees cannot get out sometimes may be the result of a flash flood even though none of the hives are washed from their locations. Such a happening may result in the bees smothering before they can be relieved.

Then too, local flash floods can happen in one given area and the operator not even know about it. Last spring such a thing did happen here which involved three of my yards but fortunately I had anticipated just such a possibility and located them properly so that no damage was done. There was a terrific downpour covering only a couple of miles along a ridge about a half mile from the main irrigation canal. Water piled up behind the canal banks four feet deep and extended back quite a distance from the canal banks. The canal bank was washed out in several places. If I had located my bees within a hundred feet of the canal in some nice looking lower places the bees might have been all washed into the deeper water and completely destroyed for I didn't know a thing about it until I worked the yards a couple of weeks later. Our outyards here are often 35 miles from home base and sometimes one does not go near them for several weeks.

It is very annoying for me to look at a yard set on such uneven ground that the hives are tipped this way and that looking like topsy-turvy land. Perhaps it doesn't make any difference whether a hive is sitting straight up or leaning at a crazy angle but it surely is much easier for the bees to work in a relatively level hive than one which tilts crazily and it is a much nicer arrangement to look at.

Yards should be kept clean and neat. Nothing can turn the public against honey as quickly as a dirty unkept disorderly bee yard with dead bees lying around and dilapidated and wornout frames, supers and hives cluttering up the yard. A few years ago a lady wrote an article in a paper stating that she certainly didn't want to eat any more honey after she saw how the bees were kept out in the yards. Unfortunately this lady probably had seen only one dirty, disreputable yard and judged all others by that one. Her article was quite widely read and caused considerable consternation among beekeepers. Perhaps some of you recall it. I have seen one such yard adjacent to a main traveled highway and it about made me sick at my stomach.

You might be surprised at the number of tourists and others who drive up to a yard and watch the bees at work from the security of their closed car windows. It is just good public relations to keep one's yards spick and span. It has always been a matter of great pride with the beekeepers of this county to keep clean attractive yards and we resented it bitterly when a migratory beekeeper moved in here a few years ago with a few yards of dilapidated unpainted equipment and set them down in the vicinity of our well painted well kept hives. We didn't resent his getting a crop of honey but the disreputable appearance of his hives was a pretty bitter pill for us to swallow. We were glad when he moved out.

Riverton
Wyoming

Make Capital of Those Idle Farm Acres

Both our local seed merchant and the one from Carthage, Illinois, report their sales of sweet clover seed a great deal more than in the past. This is for use on the idle acres going into the government program.

Bob Banker, Farm Program Chairman of the Federation, urges beekeepers and all bee organizations not only to contact farmers personally but to appeal to State and County A.S.C. committees to boost for nectar producing legumes in the farm plan. In no case can the retired land either be cut for hay or for seed or grazed. What a great chance to have them clip Hubam later this summer or biennial sweet clover next summer. And there are many other plants which could fit into the picture like bird's-foot trefoil, rape, etc.

Honey Loans On New Crop

Oct. 31 there were outstanding loans on honey to the amount of 812,900 pounds according to the U.S. D.A. This is just about the same total as on the same date in 1959 but compares with 3½ million pounds in 1958 and one million pounds in 1957.

World Production Honey 1955-1959

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is out with estimates of world production of honey for the above dates. Such figures can only be estimates.

Total world production exceeds a half million pounds with 40% of this produced in the United States. Argentine appears second with 55 million pounds and France with 44 million pounds. Mexico and Australia normally are ahead of France.

Historical

A Swarm of Bees — 100 Years Ago

by CARL KALTHOFF

The SAGE OF MARENGO was beloved by all beekeepers in his day, and his fame still lives on.

Dr. Miller was born in Pennsylvania on June 10, 1831. His early education was meager. After finishing grammar school, he attended the local Academy, and from there he went to attend college in Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, and Schenectady, New York, receiving his A.B. from the latter. He worked his way through college and boarded himself. After finishing at these two colleges, he taught for a year at the Geneseo Academy in New York.

Then he took up the study of medicine in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, receiving the degree of M.D. His first practice was in Earlville, Illinois, but he moved to Marengo in July 1856. In 1857, he married Mrs. Helen M. White, and to this union was born one child, a son. Dr. Miller lived the rest of his life at Marengo, and passed away on September 4, 1920, in his 90th year.

Although Dr. Miller had intended to make the practice of medicine his life work, he soon learned that it was not for him, and gave it up.

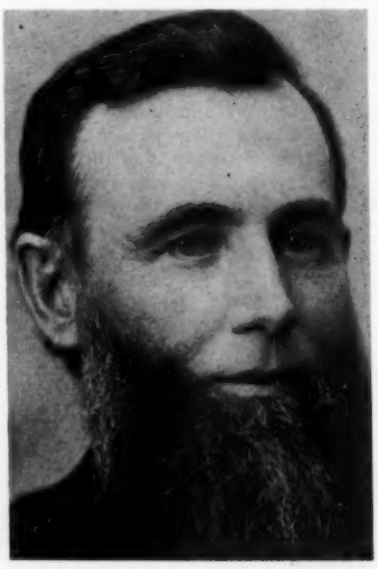
He took up the teaching of vocal and instrumental music, as well as being principal of the Marengo Public School for several years, and after that traveled for a music house.

During this time he already had become a beekeeper, but was only a sideline beekeeper.

It was on July 5, 1861, one hundred years ago, that, in the words of Dr. Miller, "a swarm of bees passing over Marengo took in their line of march the house where my wife was." Throwing water and dirt among them, they settled and she "hiving them in a full-sized sugar barrel."

Like all beginners, Dr. Miller had his ups and downs with his early beekeeping experience, most of his downs being the heavy losses of bees he sustained in wintering. From the capture of that first swarm until the end of his beekeeping career, Dr. Miller wintered his bees in a cellar. One year he lost 48 colonies out of 50, and another time lost 16 colonies out of 19. This, of course, was during the time when he was employed in other pursuits, and he was away from home a greater part of the time. Many a person would have given up beekeeping, but not Dr. Miller. The "Golden Age" of American beekeeping was upon the threshold, and Dr. Miller was to be one of the lights during this period.

From 1861 to 1870, Dr. Miller produced box comb honey, each box holding from 6 to 10 lbs. From 1870 to 1877, he produced extracted honey, having purchased a Peabody extractor in 1870. In 1877, he gave up extracted honey production for this reason: "the introduction of sections having made such a revolution it seemed better to go back to comb honey," and it was from this time that his light shone in the bee literature. In 1878, he gave up all other pursuits, and devoted his entire time to beekeeping, establishing outyards in 1880. The greatest number of colonies he operated at one time was around 400. Dr. Miller used the 8-frame hive throughout his years of section comb honey production, wintering in single stories, and adding a second story in the spring, before the main honeyflow, which was from white clover, and reducing to single story again at the beginning of the main flow, placing a section super on each hive. These supers were of the T type.



Dr. Miller at 54. Photo taken about 1885.

Generally, in producing section comb honey, there will be more preparation for swarming than in extracted honey production. Dr. Miller used various plans at different times, but his usual course was to examine each colony every eight or nine days, and destroy queen cells that would contain eggs or very young larvae, and colonies that would not go beyond this stage were his big producers. Colonies that would go beyond this stage were treated by some different method like the "Put Up Plan" or removing the queen, and destroying all cells at the time, and requeening ten days later.

Dr. Miller devoted 36 pages on the subject of swarming in his "Fifty Years Among The Bees," and in the opening paragraph on this subject he says, "If I were to meet a man perfect in the entire science and art of beekeeping, and were allowed from him an answer to just one question, I would ask for the best and easiest way to prevent swarming, for one is anxious to secure the largest crop of comb honey."

In another place he says "If a colony disposed to swarm should be blown up with dynamite, it would not probably swarm again, but its usefulness as a honey gathering institution would be somewhat impaired."

Dr. Miller was a contributor to the bee magazines from 1870 on, his first article appearing in the American Bee Journal of that year. In 1890 he started his department "Stray Straws" in Gleanings in Bee Culture, and in 1895 his question and answer department in the American Bee Journal.

In 1886 he had his first book published, "A Year Among the Bees" describing his methods of operation for a period of one year. In 1902 he published his "Forty Years Among the Bees." A second edition of this was published in 1906, with an appendix added.

In 1911 he published his "Fifty Years Among the Bees," and to quote a little from the preface, Dr. Miller has this to say: "As I began bee-

keeping in 1861, fifty years ago, the present name seems appropriate." It was republished in 1915 and again in 1920 or 21, and as this was after Dr. Miller had passed on, it contains tributes to Dr. Miller by E. R. Root and Dr. E. F. Phillips.

Dr. Miller also wrote songs about beekeeping, and some of these songs were sung at the national meetings.

One hundred years have passed since that day when Mrs. Miller hived that swarm in the sugar barrel. How can we of the present day, when extracted honey is the leading product of the hive, evaluate Dr. Miller's writings and system of beekeeping?

When it comes to the production of section comb honey, I believe he remains unchallenged. Some of the larger producers of section comb honey still follow his system, altho having improved it a little here and there.

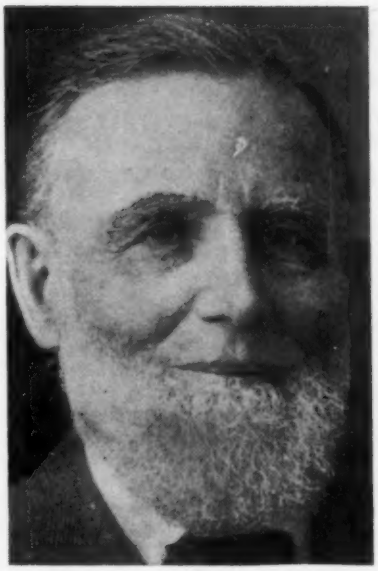
One year stands out in prominence in Dr. Miller's achievements, the year of 1913. That year he broke the world's record in the production of section comb honey per colony, an average of 266 sections per colony from 72 colonies. His best colony yielded 402 sections. Only ten colonies out of the 72 produced less than 200 sections each. He was then 83 years of age. I wonder how many beekeepers would accomplish that today?

Dr. Miller was a highly skilled beekeeper, and if he would have produced extracted honey, it is doubtful if the average yield would have been bigger. But say, as it has been stated, the production would have been double if he had produced extracted instead of section honey, then his average would have been 532 pounds per colony. Has any beekeeper ever averaged this for all of his colonies in one year?

Dr. Miller raised his own queens, and he consistently bred from the best producers. After years of this practice, which proved successful, it was no doubt a contributing factor in securing such a large average of section comb honey for the year 1913.

Today, a little over forty years after his passing, the demand for his book, "Fifty Years Among the Bees" is greater than for any other out of print book on bees.

Frank Pellett, in the chapter on American Books on Beekeeping in his "History of American Beekeeping"—says: "Of all the vast literature relating to bee culture, four Americans have made lasting contribution to the subject." The authors are Langstroth, Quinby, Root and Doolittle. Mr. Pellett's History was published in 1938. Were he living today, I believe he would add Dr. Miller's, "Fifty Years Among the Bees," although Mr. Pellett has this to say about Dr. Miller in the same book: "Dr. C. C. Miller was probably the most popular writer on bees of his day" and "Miller was not an inventor, a discoverer, or a pioneer. He made no important contribution to provide lasting fame. He was known for his genial personality and his ability to impart enthusiasm to his readers."



Dr. Miller in his later years.

●

Dr. Miller was of a humble nature, for whenever someone would ask or write him about a bee problem, and he was not sure of a proper answer, he would reply: "I don't know."

Throughout his beekeeping career his family assisted him in the work. His first wife died in March 1880. In the fall of 1881 he married Miss Sidney Jane Wilson, and in 1882 his sister-in-law, Miss Emma Wilson, made her home with the Millers. Miss Emma Wilson did almost as much, if not as much work with the bees as did Dr. Miller himself.

In August of 1923, a library of beekeeping literature was dedicated as a memorial to Dr. Miller at the University of Wisconsin. For several years prior to this, beekeepers had donated funds toward this library. Also, in August of 1923, a bronze tablet was placed in the Presbyterian church at Marengo, the church in which Dr. Miller worshipped. The tablet reads as follows:

This Tablet
is erected by beekeepers to
Charles C. Miller
a former resident of Marengo
in appreciation of
his services to beekeeping
and as a mark of esteem.
A library of beekeeping
literature has been endowed
at the University of Wisconsin
to his memory.

Dr. Miller lived during the closing days of what we today call the "horse and buggy days." His mode of transportation during the period he kept outyards was by horse and wagon. He lived in the country on a small farm and raised a lot of food, or rather had it raised on the place. Dr. Miller's brother-in-law Ghordis Stull, took care of the place. Of him and the place Dr. Miller says: "Ghordis has the place pretty well filled with raspberries and strawberries. . . . With the fruit crop I have nothing whatever to do except with the finished product, and only so much of that as we can finish in the house—by no means a small quantity."

Quite a different kind of living from today, when the greater part of the American people live out of the Super Market.

Dr. Miller did not live in the best beekeeping locality. White clover was his only main source, and it failed quite often, but when it hit, he and his bees were ready for it. Of his location he says; "If I were to start in afresh, I would take some pains to select a location as favorable for beekeeping as possible. I didn't choose a location. I just began beekeeping where I was, with no thought of doing anything in a commercial way, and grew into the business. I certainly would not start in afresh in a location with only one principal honey plant, and that sometimes a failure."

Dr. Miller was a thankful man, and he closes his FIFTY YEARS AMONG THE BEES with these words: "I desire to record my deep gratitude to a loving Heavenly Father for giving me so busy and happy a life; and for you, dear reader, I can hardly express a better wish than that your life may be as happy, if not as busy as mine."

To the sage of Marengo, these lines from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "A Psalm of Life," could aptly be applied:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Your Questions Answered

EDITOR— **W. W. Clarke, Jr.**
204 Ag. Ed. Building
Penn. State University
University Park, Pa.

• *Question from*
Robert N. Brown
Decatur, Texas

I am a beginner and have learned quite a bit by reading. I have only a few stands, but have been trying all the standard bees out to see which ones did best here and see which ones suited me the best, but have stalled. What I would like to know is this: Do golden Italian bees swarm worse than three-branded Italians and do they build as straight combs as three banded or dark Italians? It seems to me as if they build combs more like Carniolans, lots of wax across the racks, I mean goldens. I'd like to have the facts from you. I have never had any bees that are any harder workers than goldens. I have had 4 golden stands one winter, two springs and summers. They wintered well in this part of the country. They use mighty little propolis or gum. They seem to come out of the hives as early or earlier than most of the other bees in the morning and keep coming in at night or late in the evening until they can't hardly see the hole.

Heat doesn't seem to slow them down either. But early in spring they seem to be harder to get to rise up out of the brood nest than Carniolans or Caucasians. That's when the weather is still cool at night.

They seem to be plenty prolific in all seasons of the year from early spring till late fall. I haven't had them very long and can't be sure of what I say about them. So would appreciate it very much if you would tell me something.

Another question is about this rape that they say is a good honey plant. Is it good for cattle to graze on or for humans as greens and turnips?

Answer

I have never heard that the Golden Italians swarm more than the three-banded, nor that there is much difference in the way they build their comb. There is probably as much difference within the color strains as between the races of bees. If you have a good strain, stick with it.

Straight combs will be built if full sheets of foundation are put in frames in such a way as not to sag. This means wiring the frames and embedding the foundation. The best comb is drawn during a honeyflow.

I am under the impression the Carniolans generally build more brace and burr comb than any of the Italians. In Pennsylvania, I have not found the Golden Italians to be as good producers as the darker strains, hybrids, or the Caucasians; although they are very nice to work with. I probably have not found the proper strain of producers.

I understand golden rape is a good honey plant, but I do not think it is a good plant for cattle grazing or for human food. I would check with the County Agricultural Agent in your county or the Agricultural Experiment Station in your State as to whether or not it can be grown.

• *Question from*
Uriah Mast
Sarasota, Florida

I have 4 hives and one of the 4 has a lot of dead bees in front of the hive. On closely watching the entrance, you will notice most of the bees going about their work as usual, but a bee will come down from up above and start going around in circles and land out on the dirt or try to fly away and some actually do fly away. Others fly a few feet, then all of a sudden they drop down to the ground. Regardless of how they get out to the ground, they tear around on the ground as if they had extreme pain, and soon they are exhausted and die. A few are carried out by the other bees either dead or near dead. This goes on at the rate of about 4 a minute, and about 1½ weeks ago was when I first noticed it. They are a strong colony, but at this rate they probably won't be very long.

You will find a bee enclosed in the envelope. What shape it will be in when you get it I don't know.

In Root's 1947 ABC of Bee Culture, the closest disease to this would be the disappearing disease but it seems nothing was known about it then.

Can you give me any help on this?

It is possible their water supply might be stale, also a possibility of insecticides.

Answer

It sounds as though your bees probably have Nosema disease; however, only an examination under a microscope would determine this. Your Plant Board, or probably the University, would be able to make this examination for you.

If it is Nosema, there seems to be no cure. Fumidil-B has proved effective in some areas. This drug may be obtained from one of the bee supply houses and the directions will be on the container.

• *Question from*
A. C. Kuyper
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Would like to know what time of the year it is best to requeen? Also like to know what is the best method?

Must old queen be destroyed for some time before requeening?

It is sometimes very difficult to find queen. If it is impossible to find queen, the first time, should one then try on succeeding days?

Is there a best time of the day to try and locate old queen?

Sometimes colonies do not seem to make any effort to release queen. Should one then later try to get them to release another queen?

Answer

The best time to requeen is in the fall, late August or September. At least, we prefer this time in our area since it gives us a good young queen that can build a strong colony in the fall and also start to build a better colony in the spring. We almost always have a honeyflow at this time which seems to help in getting a queen accepted.

The simplest way to introduce the queen is to place the cage down between two frames containing brood. I usually release the attendant bees and remove the paper or cork from the candy end of the cage. The old queen must be found, even if it requires going through the colony several times. The best time to look for the old queen is during the day when most of the field bees are out of the hive, especially in the early afternoon.

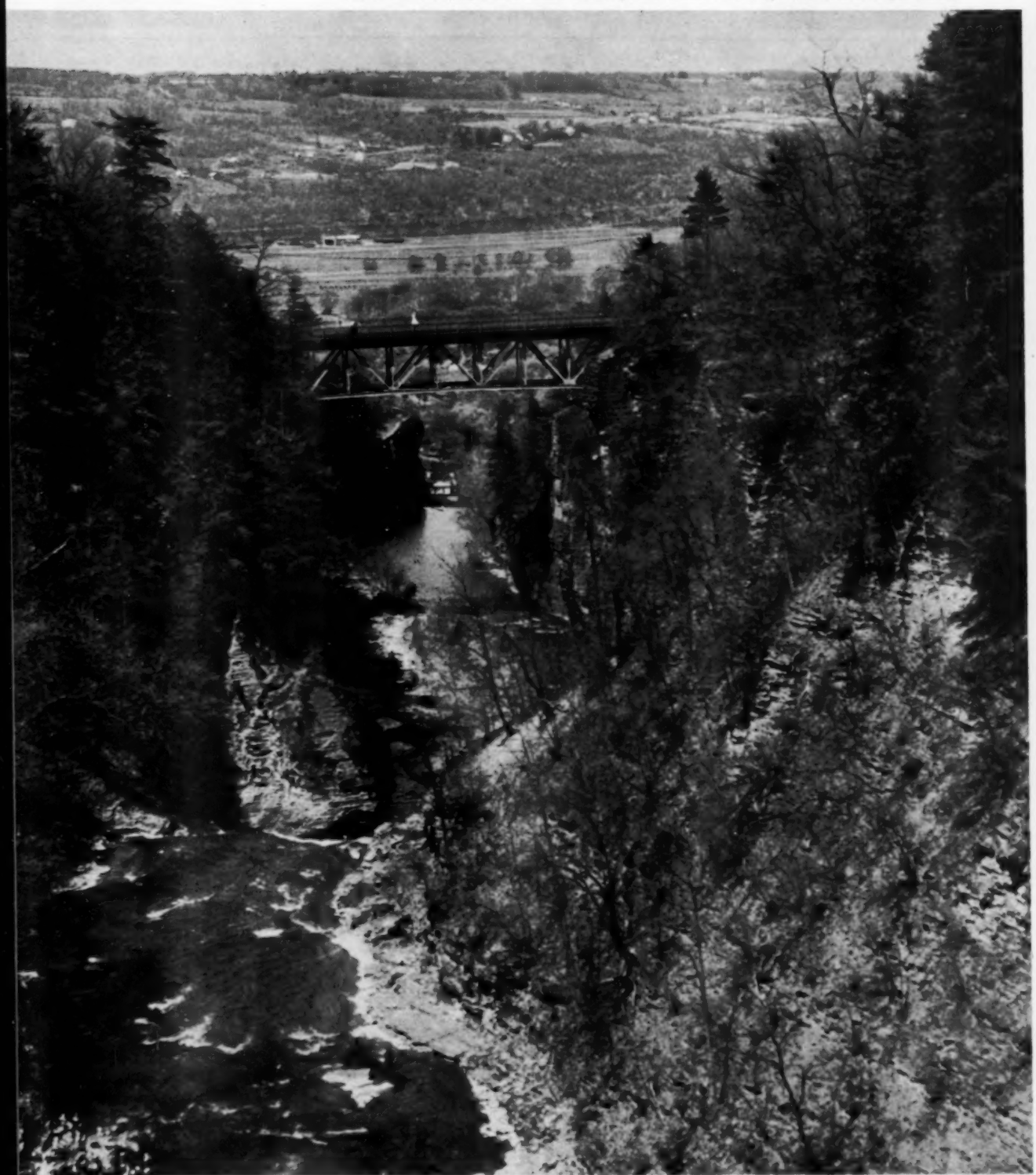
Generally, I think it is better to requeen the colony instead of letting the bees rear their own queen. Too much time is lost in brood rearing.

The Historic Northeast

Edited by E. J. Dyce and Roger A. Morse, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

New Hampshire and Vermont

One of the two gorges that bound the campus at Cornell University. (Photo from Roger Morse)



The Historic Northeast

EDITORS

E. J. DYCE
Cornell University

ROGER A. MORSE
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PART II

Beekeeping in New Hampshire

by W. R. LEE*

Beekeepers are often classified as commercial producer, sideliner, and hobbyist. Of these three groups the hobbyist is certainly king in New Hampshire; for according to the 1957 records of the State Bee Inspector there were 1,416 beekeepers with 1-5 colonies, 356 beekeepers with 6-150 colonies, and one beekeeper with 500 colonies. Most colonies in New Hampshire are concentrated in the southern counties where the residents in the numerous small towns enjoy beekeeping. The hobbyist usually finds nectar sources in his vicinity which are sufficient to support a few colonies of bees.

Alsike and white clover are of value in a few local areas, but the preponderance of nectar in New Hampshire is collected from uncultivated plants. Since the large numbers of plants identified as nectar sources vary greatly in relative abundance throughout the state, it is impractical to establish a rank of importance. In general, there are three periods when surplus honey may be expected. The so-called fruit bloom in late May with dandelion, wild blueberry, and other uncultivated plants undoubtedly contributes far more nectar than cultivated fruit. In late June and July the main nectar flow occurs with sumac and the clovers usually the major contributors. During late August and early September the goldenrods and asters secrete sufficient nectar to enable colonies to store honey for winter plus an occasional surplus.

Because New Hampshire is a marginal beekeeping area, most sideline beekeepers maintain small apiaries of ten to twenty-five colonies in selected outyards where the nectar resources are better than average. With good management these beekeepers often realize a surplus of sixty to one hundred pounds. Although the economics of beekeeping in marginal areas has not been extensively studied, the cost of production is undoubtedly higher than in commercial honey producing areas because of lower yields per colony and fewer colonies per apiary.

Since honey production in New Hampshire does not meet the local demand, beekeepers have been able to sell their honey readily. The local beekeeper operating as a producer-packer-salesman may pocket the bottling, wholesale distribution, and transportation costs that are included in the price of a jar of honey. The small honey producer-packer is finding small corner grocery stores a dwindling honey market as the American public is turning more to the chain grocery store with its centralized large-scale purchasing. In New Hampshire the small producer-packer finds a ready outlet at roadside stands and novelty shops. Tourists delight in purchasing honey of local flavors, comb honey, and various types of chunk honey packs which the local sideline beekeeper can produce without fear of competition from commercial honey producers.

Sideline beekeepers can also profitably rent bees to fruit growers who have long recognized honey bees as valuable pollinators of apples, pears, raspberries, and high-bush blueberries. A difference exists in the pollination requirements of various fruits. With apples only a small percent of the fruit set can be matured; otherwise, the apples are likely to be small and too many will drop to the ground. Since only a ten percent fruit set is desirable for McIntosh apple trees, there are often adequate numbers of wild insects to pollinate a small orchard. Unfortunately for the fruit grower, the great variation in

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Durham, N.H.

Apples in bloom in New Hampshire.

Colonies located singly in the orchard insure adequate pollination.

numbers of wild pollinators from year to year and the possibility that bad weather will permit only a few hours for pollination make dependence upon wild pollinators alone extremely risky. In large orchards wild pollinating insects are even less reliable because the balance of nature is upset by a large number of blossoms that must be pollinated in only a few days. Increasing the fruit set once the blossom period is past is impossible; therefore, most orchardists find it profitable to insure against insufficient pollinating insects by renting colonies of honey bees every year, even if this necessitates applying a thinning spray later to reduce the fruit set.

In recent years New Hampshire blueberry growers have been increasing the number of colonies placed in their fields for pollination. The low-bush blueberry *(Vaccinium lamarckii Camp)* grows wild over most of New Hampshire. A plant established from a seed spreads slowly by underground stems which produce a group of plants called a clone. Those desiring new blueberry fields remove trees and brush where blueberry clones are found growing and burn the area. Burning is repeated every second or third year to prune the plants.

Experiments on low-bush blueberries at the University of New Hampshire have shown that insect pollinators are essential to fruit set and that the honey bee is capable of setting fruit on this plant. Our results have shown that low-bush blueberry, unlike apples, must have a large percentage of the blossoms pollinated for highest fruit yield.

Apple orchardists and low-bush blueberry growers requiring from one to twenty-five colonies usually rent their bees from local beekeepers. In recent years most rentals have been ten dollars for a few, good, overwintered colonies and slightly lower prices prevail for a large number of colonies. Growers requiring more than 25 colonies usually rent bees from commercial beekeepers following the New England pollination circuit. These commercial beekeepers rent their bees to orchardists in southern New England, later move colonies north for blueberry or apple orchard rental, and then rent their bees to cranberry growers on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. In the fall goldenrod and aster, which grow throughout New England, furnish winter stores and thus complete the season.

In both New Hampshire and Vermont orchard pollination is important and bees are used both singly and in groups.

Beekeeping As a Hobby in Vermont

by ENOCH H. TOMPKINS[1]

Beekeeping in Vermont dates back to early Colonial days. The early settlers brought bees with them—and these busy insects have been thriving here ever since.

Vermont beekeepers have done their part in contributing to the art and science of apiculture. They have invented apiarian tools and added to the literature on beekeeping.

Vermont's 11,000 colonies of bees produced 572,000 pounds of honey in 1959. The farm value of honey and beeswax for that year was $185,000. The average honey production per colony during the past decade is 42 pounds. In 1955 it was 47 pounds.

Vermont leads the other New England States in total honey production and in the average per hive. According to the 1950 Agricultural Census, the average apiary in this state contains 12 colonies of bees. Windsor leads the Vermont counties in number of farms reporting bees. Addison County leads in number of colonies of bees and in the production of honey.

In an attempt to learn more about Vermont's beekeeping industry, the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station made a survey of beekeepers in the state in 1956. From this study we found that people from all walks of life are keeping bees. Most of the state's apiarists are over 50 years of age. For the most part, bees are kept only as a hobby. Of the 600 known beekeepers only 10 have 100 or more colonies. The largest is a 900 colony apiary.

The most common size of apiary in

[1]Assistant Agricultural Economist, Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station, Burlington.

Much of Vermont's honey is sold through roadside stands.

A typical Vermont apiary.

1955 consisted of two colonies. The average for those interviewed was 21 colonies. Cold weather and starvation were listed most frequently as causes of colony loss. Eleven percent of the beekeepers rented an average of 19 colonies each to farmers and orchardists in 1955. These were used for pollination purposes. The most common price charged for this service was eight dollars per colony.

Vermont beekeepers spent an average of $1.02 per colony in 1955 for bees, queen, production equipment and extracting equipment. One eight-hour day was the average amount of time they spent per colony to care for the bees and the honey crop.

Vermont's main honeyflow generally comes during June and July. Clovers are the main source of surplus honey. Most beekeepers remove their honey from the hives during July, August and September. Most of the honey is extracted from the combs for marketing. Addison County apiarists account for 55 percent of the total honey crop.

To extract their honey crop, most beekeepers use a "plain" uncapping knife. Two- and four-frame honey extractors are most popular among Vermont beekeepers. Twenty-gallon storage tanks are most commonly used to hold the liquid honey.

Nearly one-third of the beekeepers heat the honey before bottling it. The honey is generally brought to temperatures of 140 or 160 degrees Fahrenheit. After heating, it is commonly strained through four thicknesses of fine mesh cheesecloth.

About half of the honey is marketed in 60-pound cans. The most common retail sizes are one-pound jars and five-pound cans. Those producing extracted honey spent an average of $38 each for honey containers in 1955.

Two-thirds of the honey is marketed through wholesale outlets. Packers are the most important buyers. Producers' retail outlets account for one-fifth of the crop.

Prices vary considerably among the various outlets. Retail prices of honey in one-pound jars range from 25 to 50 cents, and the wholesale prices from 25 to 37 cents. Most of the price variation is apparently due to lack of market information or knowledge of the costs connected with marketing.

Operators of small apiaries are most likely to undercharge for their product. Vermont beekeepers generally use the "prevailing local price" in pricing their honey. Most of them didn't receive any type of honey market report.

Nine out of ten beekeepers said they encountered no difficulty in selling their honey. Some had to buy additional quantities to supply their customers. Very few did any advertising.

Beekeeping in Southern Vermont

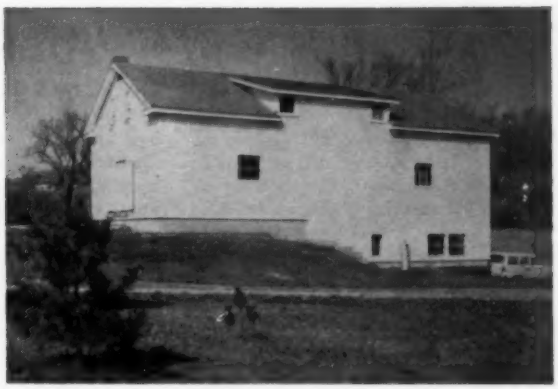
by WILLIAM J. DAMOUR

In the southern part of Vermont beekeeping is not very extensive, that is in the counties of Bennington and Windham. Throughout this 1456 square miles with a population of 52,864 there are 131 beekeepers with a total of approximately 900 colonies of bees. About two-thirds of the 131 have one to six colonies, just individual farmers or hobbyists keeping bees for their own personal use, and the few large apiaries average 40 to 100 colonies. Those who promote beekeeping as a business usually confine their efforts to honey production although a few offer pollination service too. There are in this area about 30 orchards, ten being of substantial size, and these orchardists rely on the local beekeeper or a neighboring one for pollination as well as the local farmers who require pollination for their field crops, berries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc. Thus, a few apiarists do avail themselves of the opportunity to derive added income from this branch of beekeeping.

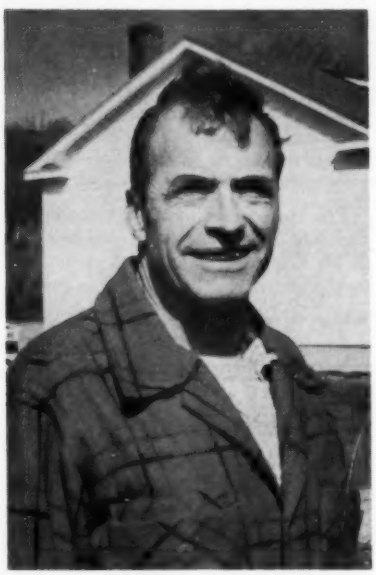
It is usually about the middle of March in this section of our Green Mountain State when the bees begin to buzz about and start their working season. There are many bloom varities that keep the bees busy from early spring until late summer; with the budding of the soft maple trees in March followed by willows, dandelions, fruit trees, clovers, berries, flowers, vegetables, alfalfa, basswood, buckwheat and then in late August and early September when the goldenrod and wild aster bloom the honey yield ends for the season. The overall honey crop in this area is usually a nice, rich amber color and has a delicious flavor - an attractive, delectable, marketable product.

Bennington, Vermont

Regina Brousseau, in charge of mail orders, bottling and honey packing.



Honey house, Champlain Valley Apiaries, Middlebury, Vt. Note two levels. Honey is unloaded on left, runs by gravity from extractors to tanks below.



Charles Mraz, owner of Champlain Valley Apiaries. Also a frequent contributor to ABJ.

Commercial Beekeeping in Vermont

Beekeeping is not a very extensive business in this state, though it may produce more honey than any of the other New England States. Most of the commercial beekeeping is confined to the rather small area of Champlain Valley, a strictly one crop, clover honey area. There are many smaller beekeepers in other parts of the state that in some years get good crops of honey from raspberry, blackberry, goldenrod, aster and similar type plants on lighter soils. Though climatic conditions are similar in both these mountain and valley areas, the honey is vastly different because of the difference in the soils. The soil in Champlain Valley is a heavy clay, usually with a high lime content. In the rest of the state's mountain areas, the soil is light and has a low lime content.

There are perhaps a dozen commercial beekeepers in the Champlain Valley ranging up to 900 colonies and they keep this area pretty well filled up with bees. One of the larger commercial beekeepers is Charles Mraz in Middlebury with about 900 colonies. He has one of the largest honey houses in New England. The first two floors may be reached by truck so that supers are unloaded on the second floor and then honey runs by gravity to tanks on the first floor. The 3rd floor contains the carpenter shop and laboratory.

Because of the long winters, 1½ or two story hives are used to provide an ample supply of honey for winter feed. Since there is usually no honeyflow after August 1st, some years considerable feeding must be done in September and October.

Surplus honey comes mainly from the various clovers, such as, purple vetch, pasture clover, alsike clover, alfalfa and bird's-foot trefoil.

Front view of Champlain Valley Apiaries. Note that the car has the owner's name on the license plate.

Small aluminum sheet building used in each yard. Here supers and packing material are stored to prevent fire loss and for convenience.

The Vermont Beekeeping Scene

by ROBERT MEAD*

Vermont beekeeping falls easily into three classes. There are perhaps not more than twenty people who are strictly commercial; who make their entire living from bees. Following that there are perhaps fifty or sixty who are partly commercial. Their income from bees is important but they also have other business or regular jobs. Then at least there are some five or six hundred who have from one to two dozen colonies.

The strictly commercial outfits are located in the Champlain Valley with the greatest concentration in the Middlebury-Shoreham area. These outfits range in size from those with about 300 colonies to a high figure of 900 colonies for the state's top man. Their concentration in the rather narrow area along the lake is, of course, no accident. Both sale and farming practice combine to make this one of the country's top honey producing areas. Alsike clover, white Dutch clover, bird's-foot trefoil and alfalfa give yields of up to 100 pound average and complete failures come only about once in ten years. It is also a good spring area with numerous apple orchards and the fields usually golden with dandelion for miles in their season.

The smaller semi-commercial outfits are rather well scattered around the state. In the southwest corner Bennington has always had its share of beekeepers. Most with 25 to 50 colonies. In the extreme north there are a few small outfits around Newport. Windsor County in the east central area has always been a hotbed of beekeeping activity and has furnished several persons who have been very active in state association work. Crops in these several areas do not average quite as large as Champlain Valley crops and years of failure or near failure are perhaps more common. Some of these smaller operators however make a good thing from their modest efforts. Many sell their entire crop retail right at home.

The people with from one to five colonies are everywhere and their efforts extend from the serious hobbyist to the very casual type who occasionally take off a little honey for home use if the bees happen to make it.

Outside the Champlain clover area Vermont honey plants are perhaps most noted for their variety. All the mountain areas have dozens of trees whose spring blossoms yield honey or pollen and added to the live trees are numerous shrubs and wild flowers.

In many of these areas wild raspberry furnishes the main crop with goldenrod and aster helping out on odd years. The Bennington area has horsemint and marjoram. Basswood appears over much of the state but of late years the yield has been disappointing. Sumac, on the other hand, where it occurs in any quantity, is very reliable.

The state association is quite active and just lately has been incorporated in an effort to make it of more help to the industry.

White River Jct., Vermont

*Inspector of Apiaries.

The Golden Pollen

Marjorie McCormick, 218 Cleman Ave., Yakima, Washington has a book "The Golden Pollen—Nature's Unique Force of Life." It is a paper bound edition with stiff paper cover of some 260 pages.

It generally gives a review of the pollen situation both from a food standpoint and from a health standpoint. It goes very deeply into the various constituents of pollen. In the course of the book, a review is given of the work done in Switzerland, France, Sweden, Russia and reports from Canada and Hawaii.

Included are reprints of various articles, including two or three from the American Bee Journal, all devoted to pollen, pollen substitutes, pollination, etc. The book, "The Golden Pollen," sells for $3.00 postpaid, which seems quite high although we realize that book publication costs must be up considerably. We refer our readers to Marjorie McCormick for copies of the book, or, for the convenience of our readers, we have a few copies of these books in stock at the price mentioned above.

It does look like pollen should enter into the food and health picture should the claims made by various authorities (including Alin Caillas of France who has himself offered a book on pollen) to the point where it may be recognized by authorities in the United States for its medicinal and food value. Then pollen might again become truly another valuable product of the beehive.

Honey Candies - Solar Extractor

Dr. E. J. Anderson is author of "Progress Report 186" of the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. on "Honey Candies." The four page folder gives recipes for some 20 various candies with honey as an ingredient and sweetener. Some of the problems to avoid and helpful hints are included. We assume that copies of the folder, may be obtained by addressing as above.

Another six-page folder by Dr. Anderson gives details and pictures of an improved solar extractor for melting up old combs and burr combs. The solar has sloping walls, double glass on top, black paint outside, white paint inside and it is made for easy moving.

Nevada Disease Record

Some 12,000 colonies inspected in Nevada in 1960 gave a report of less than one per cent infection as given in the biennial report of the State Department of Agriculture. The report gives 320 as the number of registered beekeepers in the state, a slight gain over 1959.

Research in Nosema

According to the "California Bee Times" the California Bee Breeders Association has allocated $500.00 to be matched by the University of California at Davis for the investigation of Nosema in 1961.

Keith Doull who is on sabbatical leave from White Agricultural Research Institute at Adelaide, Australia and is an entomologist, was due to arrive March 17 in the U.S.A. to pursue this work for a period of six months.

Fun For The Family

***Editor*— Pat Diehnelt**

Rt. 1, N83, W13799, Fond du Lac Ave.
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

SCRAMBLES
CROSSWORD PUZZLES
PRIZE RECIPES

Just trying to keep Pat young so she won't condemn us too much for not naming all the winners and using the recipes. Just too many greedy advertisers.

THE JUNE SCRAMBLE ANSWER

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade. (William Butler Yeats)

THE JULY SCRAMBLE

irthe ni ereh ghbrit listromepo fo rsewlof het anberk sebe ear usby thiw hetir dolg

The July winner in the recipe contest is Mrs. Roy Whitener, Rt. 1, Box 136, Valdese, N.C. for her Favorite Honey Bars. Space still is a problem so the recipes will have to wait for publication.

JULY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

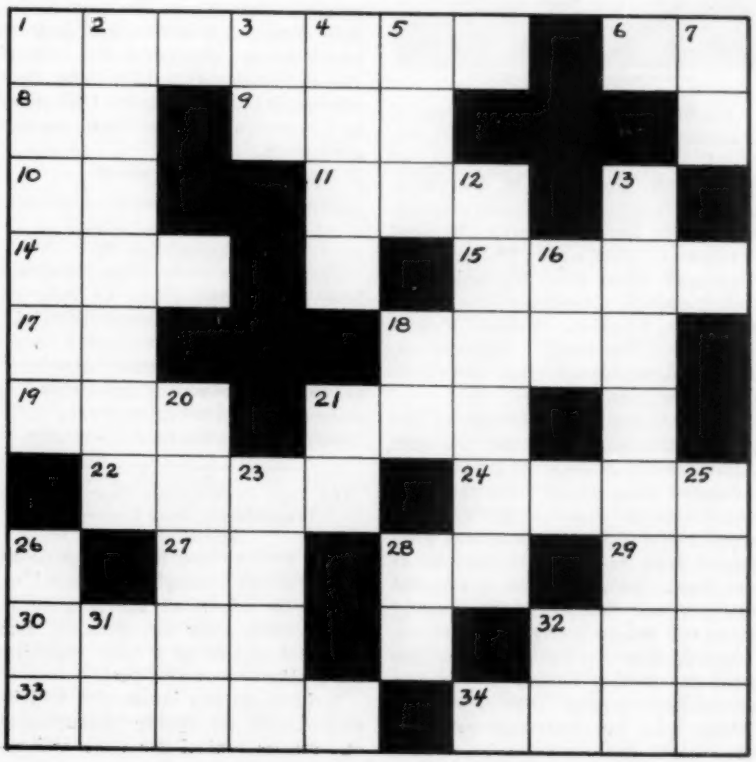
(The one we missed in June)

ACROSS

1. Honey bee
6. Forward
8. Accepted
9. Honey
10. New Zealand (abbr.)
11. Pouch
14. Room for athletics
15. Body between ribs and hipbone
17. 1st person singular of BE
18. Honey buzzard
19. Remittance (abbr.)
21. Honey eater
22. Having a tart taste
24. Honey fermented drink
27. Registered nurse (abbr.)
28. Pronoun
29. Sweetheart
30. Anay
32. Atom bearing an electric charge
33. Trivial
34. Cozy

DOWN

1. Honey bee
2. Substances that act as catalysts in metabolism
3. A square space, in printing type
4. Sleep
5. Highest note
7. Refusal
12. Honey plant
13. Honey bear
16. Conjunction
18. Papa (colloq.)
20. Honey and mulberry juice
21. Irish (abbr.)
23. A single thing
25. Ding _____
26. Sound of lapping liquid
28. Possessive pronoun, form of I
31. Neon (abbr.)
32. At home



Eastern Apicultural Society
Its Organization

Prior to 1955 there had been a strong feeling among Eastern beekeepers that there was a great need for some type of organization that would foster a closer fellowship among hobbyists and small beekeepers, as well as promote and encourage better beekeeping practices and a more active interest in scientific research.

President Johnson

Through the efforts of James I. Hambleton, Dept. of Bee Culture, U.S.D.A., George Abrams, Dept. of Beekeeping, University of Maryland, and others an organizational meeting of Eastern beekeepers was arranged for June 17, 1955, at the University of Maryland. There were 210 beekeepers and friends in attendance from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York and Maryland.

It was voted that the name of the organization should be the "Eastern Apicultural Society." Twenty-two delegates were chosen from the various states to draw up the general organizational plans. Resolutions were passed stating: "That the purpose of the organization shall be to promote the art and science of beekeeping, primarily among hobbyist beekeepers. Also, further that it shall be the purpose of the Society to develop friendships among beekeepers and others who are pursuing research, educational and commercial activities in beekeeping."

The first officers of the Society, elected at the meeting in June, 1955, were: President—J. Gaston Levitre, Rhode Island; 1st Vice-President—Henry B. Poole, Mass.; 2nd Vice-President—Roy A. Stadel, Conn.; Secy.-Treasurer—Mrs. Maxine Manchester, Vermont; Publicity Director—Wm. K. Davis, Rhode Island; Advisory Board—James I. Hambleton, Dept. of Bee Culture, U.S.D.A. and George Abrams, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Maryland.

Beekeepers' Associations throughout the Eastern States were invited to join the Society by payment of annual dues, and to date 31 such associations have assisted in the support of the Society. An Annual Conference has been held each year, by invitation, at a State College, with the State Beekeepers' Association acting as Host. These Conferences have been held at the University of Rhode Island, University of Pennsylvania, Univ. of Massachusetts, Cornell University, New York, Rutgers Univ., New Jersey. The attendance at these meetings has ranged from the original 210, increasingly to 500. The 1961 meeting is to be held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn., on August 10-12.

J. Peter Johnson, President

Virginia State Association
Lynchburg, July 22

The Virginia State Association will hold its summer picnic on July 22 at Miller Park, Lynchburg, Virginia. We are planning on having some good speakers, also some attendance prizes. All beekeepers are invited to come and bring a basket lunch.

Henry W. Weatherford, Secretary

The 16th Pennsylvania Short Course
Pennsylvania State University
August 21-25

The 16th annual Beekeeping Short Course of the Pennsylvania State University is scheduled for August 21 to 25, 1961. Over 550 persons from 13 states and seven foreign countries have attended in the past.

Included in the instruction will be such topics as spring management and swarm control for comb and extracted honey production, methods of wintering bees, introduction of package bees, control of diseases and enemies of the honey bee, extracting and bottling honey, queen rearing, requeening, fall management, marketing honey, and care of bees for pollination of fruit and other crops.

One half of each day is devoted to lectures on the theory of beekeeping and the other half to practical application of bee management. Students will be given the opportunity to develop skills in the five University bee yards and in the laboratories. Students are required to bring their own protective equipment.

Any individual 16 years of age or older is eligible to attend. Younger individuals will be accepted if accompanied by a responsible person.

Speakers are: Prof. P. W. Burke of Guelph, Ontario, Canada also W. W. Clarke and Edwin J. Anderson of Penn State. The course covers nearly all phases of beekeeping and should be both a profitable and pleasant experience for those attending. To register and obtain information write to Dr. Fred C. Snyder, 211 Armsby, Bldg. University Park, Penna.

The cost of the course is $7.25 for Pennsylvanians and $12.25 for non-Pennsylvanians.

Fred C. Snyder, Director
Edwin J. Anderson, Head

Middlesex County (Mass.)
Ayer Road, July 29th

Out-door summer meetings continue at the Harvard home of Mr. and Mrs. William Maxant, Ayer Road. All beekeepers visiting in the New England area are cordially invited to attend our meetings. The Maxant home may be easily found from either Route 2 or the Littleton traffic circle. It is on Route 110. Our meetings start at 2:00 p.m. with an inspection of hives followed by a short business meeting. Everyone bring their own picnic supper. Coffee and ice cream are provided by the association. You may have a contribution to make in our discussions about disease control, sprays and insecticides, producing comb honey, or packaging honey.

Betty Carlson, Secretary

New Hampshire Association
Durham, July 8th

The next meeting of the New Hampshire Association will be on July 8th in Room 4 at Putnam Hall on the campus of New Hampshire University at Durham. Guest speaker will be Dr. Frank R. Shaw, co-editor of the recent book "Beekeeping" and Professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. All are more than welcome to attend. Dues of $2.00 a family unit are payable at the meeting or by mail.

Barbara Prior
Secretary-Treasurer
Westminster, Vermont

North Carolina Association
Cullowhee, August 4-5

The North Carolina State Association will hold the annual Summer meeting at the Western Carolina Teachers College at Cullowhee on August 4th and 5th.

There will be plenty of rooms in the Dormitories that are practically empty of students this time of year and we will eat at the College Cafeteria, all at very reasonable rates. So come and bring the family or anyone else that would like to come.

You will never have a better chance to spend a two day vacation and feel the cool mountain breezes and learn something about Honey Bees and at the same time associate with some of the best people in the whole wide world. We'll be looking for you.

S. C. Squires
Secretary-Treasurer
Chapel Hill

Northern Kansas
Kansas City, Kansas
August 6th

The Northeastern Kansas Association will meet August 6th at 2:30 p.m. for the regular monthly meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray F. Ferguson, 4126 Francis St., Kansas City, Kansas. Professor Herbert Knoston of Manhattan, Kansas, will be our guest speaker. Anyone interested in bees is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Mrs. Bert M. Parrish
Secretary

Southeastern Minnesota Summer Tour
July 16th

The tour will start at 10:00 A.M. Sunday morning at the William Ahren's residence in Kellogg, Minn. We will leave the Ahren's residence at 11:00 A.M. and travel to Colvill Park at Red Wing, Minn. and have the noon picnic lunch there. Ice cream will be furnished. Bring your own dishes and pot luck.

From Colvill we will travel to the F. Q. Bunch residence at Welch, Minn. and plan to be at Mr. Bunche's residence at 2:30 p.m. From Mr. Bunche's we will make the final stop at the Robert Banker residence at 3:30 p.m.

This is a complete schedule of the tour so if you cannot take part in all of it, perhaps you can pick it up along the way.

Lyle Dankers
Secretary-Treasurer

Midwestern Association
Gladstone, Missouri, July 9th

The Midwestern Association will hold its regular monthly meeting at the Garden and Apiary of Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Barrett, 200 E. 73rd. St. North, Gladstone, Missouri, Sunday, July 9. Bring a basket lunch and come early. The meeting will be held at 2:30 P.M. The subject will be 'Extracting The Honey Crop.' Everyone welcome.

James A. Worrel
Secretary

Iowa Annual Summer Meeting
Perry, July 8th

The Iowa Association will hold its annual summer meeting on July 8th, in Perry, Iowa, with Mr. John Jessup as host. This will be a potluck luncheon so bring a covered dish and your own table service. Drinks will be furnished.

An interesting program is being planned and will be announced more in detail in the July issue of the Iowa Beekeepers Association Newsletter. Everyone is urged to attend.

Thomas Doonan
President

Ohio State Association Summer Meeting
Bellefontaine, July 29-30

The summer meeting of the Ohio State Association will be on Saturday, July 29th and Sunday, July 30th, at Bellefontaine at the Pine Ave. School opposite the Fairgrounds.

July 29th—

Registration; Welcome by Mayor Garnet Gregg of Bellefontaine. Response by Charles Lewis of the State Association.

Discussion—Herbicides vs Honey Bees—Charles King, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster.

Demonstration—Bee Handling by Norman Dunham of Deer Creek Honey Farms, London, Ohio.

Lunch—At the school, made available by the Logan County Beekeepers' Association.

Film—"Miracle of the Bee," shown by Seymour Bailey, State Apiarist.

The Queen Bees—The Ladies Auxiliary will have a portion of the afternoon program. Mrs. Jack Happ, Chairman. Jack Deyell, Editor of Gleanings in Bee Culture will have some valuable information for beginners. Charles A. Reese will conduct an interesting bee game.

Banquet—6:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Bellefontaine. Dr. Wilbur Wood of Ohio State University will be the speaker.

Sunday Morning—The church of your choice. Meetings resume at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. W. E Dunham—Bee Research at Ohio State University.

Emerson Long—A short talk on "Bright Spots in Beekeeping."

Panel—Jack Happ of Gleanings will be moderator. This will be a discussion of beekeeping problems presented by the audience.

Robert H. Terhune—Ohio, the Market basket. Mr. Terhume is Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

There will be door prizes for the beekeepers and some special ones for the Queen Bees. Richard Livermore, Belle Center, Ohio, is Superintendent of special displays by bee supply companies, honey packers, educational displays. Producers may bring samples of honey for sale to prospective buyers.

Wendell P. Smith
Secretary-Treasurer
Sunbury

Northwestern Pennsylvania
Titusville, July 29th

The annual Northwestern Pennsylvania beekeepers' picnic and field day will be July 29th at Burgess Park, Titusville. A program with speakers, games and contests will be given. Everybody invited.

Ivan Barton
Townville

Pennsylvania State Summer Picnic
Kutztown, August 19th

The Pennsylvania State Association will hold its annual summer meeting and picnic on August 19 beginning at 10:00 o'clock at the Kutztown Park just east of Kutztown on Route 222.

All beekeepers are invited to attend this all day affair so bring along a picnic lunch. A fine refreshment stand near will take care of those that so desire. A good program has been arranged, so plan to attend this outing and renew acquaintances.

Bob Crimbring
Secretary, Canton

Obituaries

Helen Dadant

We regret to announce to our readers the death of Helen Dadant, wife of M. G. Dadant and mother of Charles C. Dadant and the late Robert H. Dadant. Although she had been in failing health, she had enjoyed a full Sunday - attending Mass, taking a car ride and playing cards with friends in the evening—and passed away suddenly early on Monday, May 29, 1961 at the age of 71.

Many in the industry will remember her smiling face and laughter as she accompanied M. G. on many business trips and attended numerous beekeepers' meetings.

Her many friends will remember her as a truly fine woman who, as an inspiration to her husband and family, played a real part in the development of the Dadant organization and its contributions to the beekeeping industry.

D. C. Babcock

D. C. Babcock, General Manager of the A. I. Root Company in San Antonio, died on May 28th of a heart attack. "Babs" made a big impression on beekeepers and beekeeping during the ten years he was in Texas. He was one of the most enthusiastic members of the State Association.

Claud J. Burgin
College Station

Mrs. L. F. Childers

A recent letter from L. F. Childers at New Franklin, Missouri, tells of the loss of Mrs. Childers. Her loss stemmed from November, 1957, when she hit a grain truck while driving her car. The result was a brain concussion and nervous shock. She was 76 at the time and never fully recovered. "Luke" will stay on the farm and continue with his interests there. Readers will remember him as one of the first discoverers of the sulfa treatment for American foulbrood.

E. A. Quivey

Word comes from Mrs. Quivey that her husband passed away at 39 Prairie Ave., Carthage, Illinois. He was a frequent visitor at the Journal office and at Dadant & Sons.

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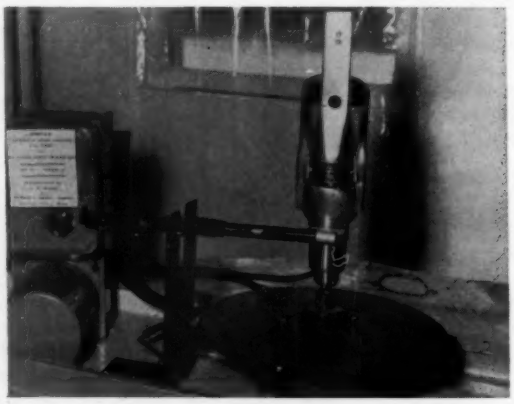
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As in the past we will be shipping Package Bees as of April 1st. Are you listed for shipment? Many dates are filled to capacity now (March 6th.). Give us a try if you still need bees.

We are sorry if we could not accept your queen order. Packages require so many queens that we have to limit shipment of individual queens until after May 10th. Give us your order for queens to be shipped after that time. If at all possible we will supply you. Refer to last issue of journals for package prices.

QUEEN PRICES AS FOLLOWS:

	Regular Italian		Island Hybrid	
	to 5/20	after 5/20	to 5/20	after 5/20
1 - 24, ea.	$1.45	$1.20	$1.75	$1.50
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100 up, ea.	1.25	1.00	1.55	1.30

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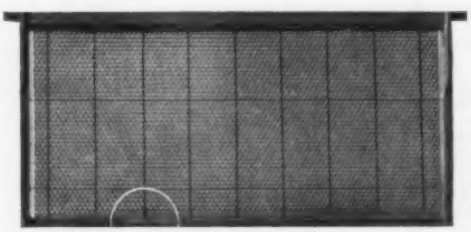

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GOLDEN ITALIAN queens. Heavy honey producers 90c each. Guaranteed live arrival and health certificate. Allen H. Gauthier, Hamburg, Louisiana.

CAUCASIAN QUEENS, $1.25 each. Extra good producers and gentle to handle. C. D. Wardell & Company, Box 6226, Palestine, Texas.

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DARK ITALIAN QUEENS strictly bred for production, $1.00. Henry Loehr, Caldwell, Texas.

QUALITY BRED Caucasian queens bred for honey production, hardiness and gentleness. Breeders furnished by J. E. Hastings. 1-24, $1.10 each, 24-99, $1.00 each, 99 up, $.90 each, all queens by air mail. Walter D. Leverette Apiaries, P.O. Box 374, Dallas, Georgia.

DOUBLE GRAFTED Jumbo Italian queens $1.20 each, $12.00 per dozen. Sheppard Apiaries, Aberdeen, North Carolina.

ITALIAN AND Carniolan queens $1.00 each. Luther Pickett, Efland, North Carolina.

PRODUCTIVE ITALIAN QUEENS—$1.00 each; 10 up, 90c. Shirl Baker, Mecosta, Michigan.

QUEENS UNTIL October 15th. $ .75 each; 50 or more $ .65 each. Three-Band Italians only. Prepaid Air Mail delivery. Also new crop table honey in sixties. Dixie Honey Co., 205 Oak Drive, Belton, South Carolina.

CARNIOLAN QUEENS: Untested queens $1.00 or $85.00 per hundred. Tillery Brothers, R. 3, Greenville, Alabama.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Domestic Pollen, Royal Jelly. Also Pollen Supplement Dry Mix (You add water and honey). Royal Jelly Enterprises, 1017 Los Carneros Avenue, Napa, California.

FREE CATALOG: Cypress Bee Hives and bee supplies. Save up to 40% on hives that last. Myers Craft Manufacturing Co., Burgaw, North Carolina.

SUPER STRENGTH 100 mg. Royal Jelly capsules in bottles of 100 for $10.00. Prairie View Honey Co. 12303 Twelfth St., Detroit 6, Michigan.

ROYAL JELLY $8.00 ounce, eight ounces $50.00, full pound $90.00. Delivered Air Mail. Phillips Honey Co., P. O. Box 1506, Clearwater, Florida.

1400 COLONIES OF BEES for sale all standard 10 frame depth about 4 or 5 stories high. Many other items too numerous to mention. Write for complete details. Box BAX c/o American Bee Journal.

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COMPLETE PACKAGE and queen business for sale, in Central California. For particulars write Box DTW in care of American Bee Journal.

FOR SALE—70 Colonies bees; surplus supers; extracting, packaging equipment; building 10' x 14'; Excellent prospects for new crop, on top clover. Lakeside Apiary, 308 So. Vine St., No. Platte, Nebraska.

150 COLONIES BEES, 3 stories high (on location) new supers, frames, foundations, and extractors. George Koncz, 19611 Benwood, Covina, Calif.

500 Single story Langstroth hives of bees. Equipment and bees very good, California tops and bottoms or galvanized telescope tops. With or without locations in exclusive white to water white honey territory in Wyoming. Health certificate. Write HS c/o American Bee Journal.

2 H.P. Steam Boiler, excellent condition, gas fired. Curtis Olson, Zumbrota, Minn.

FOR SALE: Root 20 frame Simplicity extractor $95 includes power drive ½ horse electric motor. Root novice 2 frame extractor $10. Closing out medium brood foundation 69c lb. everything good condition. Fred Peterson, Alden, Iowa.

FOR SALE: Three bedroom home, bees, locations, complete honey packing business on state highway near Orlando, Florida. Write Phil Packard, Oviedo, Florida.

SEVERAL DOUBLE—super colonies. Anderson, 109 Oak Road, Monee, Illinois.

TWO Superior Lifetime 8-frame extractors, Robinson waxpress, and other equipment in good condition. Cox Honey Farms, Shelley, Idaho.

ONE WOODMAN power knife complete with gas burner, generator and generator stand, very reasonably priced. Wilbur Ellsworth, Tarkio, Missouri.

200 COLONIES OF bees in standard ten frame hives; packaged in April now producing honey. Plenty of extra equipment for above. Reasonable offer will be considered. Kenneth Nelson, Harcourt, Iowa.

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WHITE CLOVER HONEY in sixties. Ralph Gamber, 911 State, Lancaster, Pa.

WE CAN SUPPLY NICE white honey. Immediate delivery. Russell Smalley. Beaver, Iowa.

NEW FLORIDA TWIN PACK. Two three-pound cans of your choice. Orange Blossom, Tupelo, Gallberry, or Palmetto $3.00 postpaid. Phillips Honey Co., P. O. Box 1506, Clearwater, Fla.

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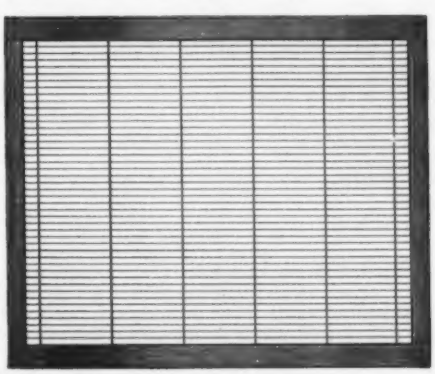

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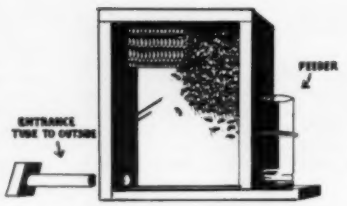

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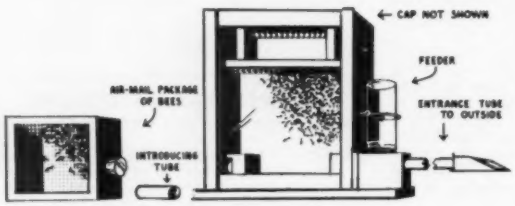
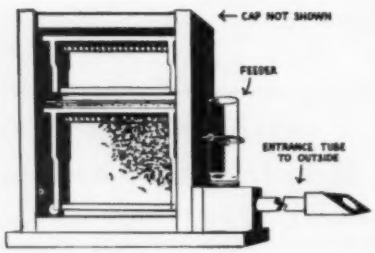
This is the only model we ship with the bees already installed. Has practically break-proof plastic sides, two feeders—trough and automatic. It has a "queen guard" that absolutely prevents loss of bees through swarming out. (No other hobby hive has this feature.) Everything mailed in one package, including instructions. This makes it fine for schools, short courses, lectures, also for honey stands, wonderful too for gifts for boys and girls (or just anyone) and prizes. So simple all you do is put the tube out the window. (Can be installed outdoors). Push the tube through the plastic taped hole, fill the feeder and watch. For all this, Model 10 as pictured, send only $4.89 plus $1.39 air mailing charge.



Model 20 Hobby Hive Complete With Bees

This model is the same size as the Model 10 above, but it is a **DELUXE** model. This Hobby Hive is sent by regular mail and when you have it set up, we send the bees air mail. Has automatic feeder and queen guard—both essential. Each side has genuine shatter-proof PLEXIGLAS, an insulation panel, and a beautiful embossed aluminum outer panel. All of these panels slide up and down in side grooves. All the wooden parts are of beautiful cypress wood, waterproofed and finished in natural color. The Model 20 is weatherproof and can be installed outdoors, as is. You can use this beautiful Hobby Observation Hive year after year. Model 20 Hobby Hive Complete with Daniels Pet Bees Postpaid to your door $18.00.

A Cherished Lifetime Gift



Model 30 Hobby Hive Complete With Bees

The Model 30 is constructed the same as the **DELUXE** Model 20, but it is twice as large, has true frames and even a queen excluder between combs. It has all the fine features of Model 20; beautiful natural cypress wood, genuine PLEXIGLAS windows, etc. Every principle of a modern beehive is demonstrated in the Model 30 Hobby Hive. It was especially designed for college classrooms, bee supply dealers, and anyone interested in a beautiful and functional observation hive. The Model 30 Hobby Hive complete with Daniels Pet Bees postpaid to your door $25.00.

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DADANT & SONS, INC. **Hamilton, Illinois**

Crop and Market

by M. G. Dadant

MOISTURE AND HONEY PLANTS

Throughout the entire eastern district and extending into the Middle West, moisture has been quite sufficient for this spring season although perhaps there is a shortage of subsoil moisture in some cases. This condition extends down into the Southeast with the exception of central Florida where it has been too dry to make the best honey situation.

Farther west we find more difficulty with moisture and this includes particularly parts of Minnesota extending into Montana and in the western part of Colorado. Southern Idaho similarly. New Mexico, Arizona and southern California are quite deficient in rain. Farther north, in northern California points, there is a little better prospect and sufficient moisture in Washington and Oregon.

Eastern provinces of the Dominion of Canada are satisfactory as far as moisture and plants are concerned. In the prairie provinces, the situation is not so clear but unless rain has fallen recently, there is a deficiency. British Columbia, as usual, has quite satisfactory conditions.

We find in some plains areas that the moisture was lacking last fall and that the stand of clover plants, therefore, is somewhat deficient. This applies particularly to western Iowa.

COLONY CONDITIONS

If beekeepers were careful to keep their colonies well supplied with nutrients so there would be no shortage of brood rearing, colonies have come up quite remarkably since the spring season and should be in prime condition for the honeyflow or should have been in early June. This is written on June 19.

In fact, colony conditions in practically all instances, except for the necessity of feeding, seem to be generally quite satisfactory. There seems to be some complaints in northwestern Iowa and in Texas, although late rains have adjusted this to a considerable extent.

THE CROP

Naturally, in all northern areas, the crop had not as yet quite matured at the time this page was being written. However, in the clover areas, it did seem to be starting off wonderfully except that it was interrupted by some cool weather but bees were whitening the combs and in some instances were well into the second super. The early stimulative crops have been good throughout the northern areas, particularly that from dandelion, maple and black locust. This helped put the colonies in good shape.

In the Southeast, from Maryland south, the crop seemed to be progressing quite satisfactorily and at least the equal of last year. There is no doubt but that the crop is better in Georgia than it was a year ago and the Florida crop promises to be about the same as in 1960 although a shortage of moisture, as mentioned previously in central Florida, has tended to reduce the possibilities.

Extending throughout the balance of the South as far as Louisiana, early crops seem to be about as good as in 1960. Louisiana reports less than a year ago and in Texas conditions have not been satisfactory although rains may increase the possibilities.

PROSPECTS

As mentioned above, prospects seem to be that the crop is developing much better than a year ago and late June and early July should see some quite desirable results, particularly throughout all northern areas extending into the Middle West.

Wisconsin, particularly, was reporting "marvelous" conditions. Naturally, the final crop will depend upon how the weather developed during late June and early July. The long-term weather report from Washington seemed to indicate too much cool and rainy weather which might interfere with the total crop. However, in our own location, the cool weather has only delayed and not entirely hindered the crop. As a result, we are getting more and more reports of swarming. That is quite natural because the colonies were hive-bound for three or four days with extremely cool weather. The hive became congested and bees got an inclination to swarm which is showing itself in swarms which are being reported. One local beekeeper came in for a "second hand hive" reporting that he was not in any condition to buy a brand new hive. Nor did he want to buy any foundation. He merely was going to dump them into a box and put comb honey sections on top. Perhaps he will have several colonies and several box hive swarms before the season is over.

In California, including Arizona and New Mexico, where much crop has been developed, the orange crop has not been any better than last year and perhaps a little less. The crop from the deserts is almost nil. In Los Angeles, they reported five inches of rain in the entire season which would indicate that the desert areas are burned. The amount of alfalfa, however, grown for seed, according to the government report, has increased somewhat over a year ago and the number of colonies available seems to be just a bit better than a year ago so that California may in the irrigated areas be somewhat better than in 1960. However, it is quite evident that sage and all other desert bloom is going to be almost a total failure and in many cases bees are starving when they should be laying in honey from these sources.

There has been no tendency to make any prognostications on the possibilities of honey prices. Most areas, of course, have cleaned up their honey before the recession in buying occurred so that not too much honey remains in the hands of the beekeepers themselves and we believe that packers on the whole have really pretty well cleaned up but are "leery" on stocking up on the new crop until they see just where the situation will develop.

Orange honey in California seems to be in quite good demand and it is our personal opinion that we are still seeing the results of the "Folk Medicine" book from the reports we are getting here. There seems to be an increased activity on the part of beginning beekeepers as well as on the part of 4-H Club members. This would tend to make for a more wide recognition of the value of honey and the greater possibilities for the expansion of interest.

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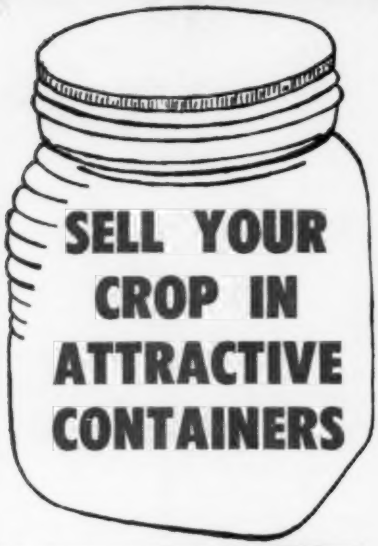

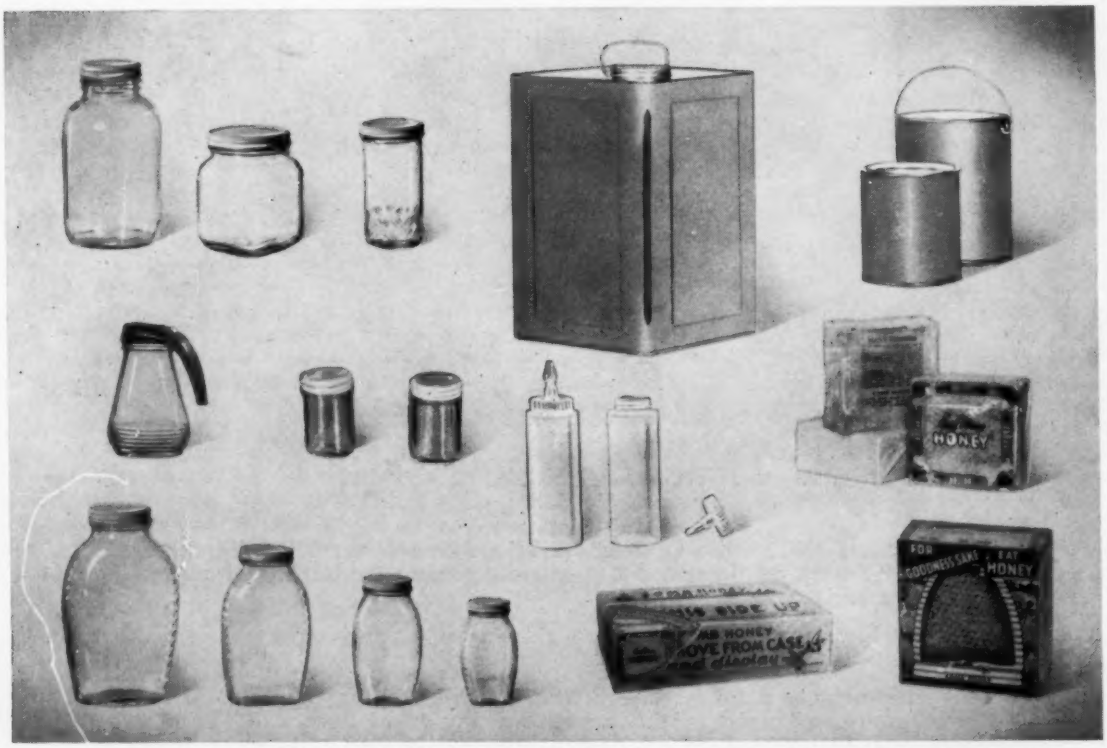

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